

IPES-FOOD, NOURISH SCOTLAND & PARTNERS

JANUARY 2021

VIRTUAL LAUNCH

SUMMARY OF THE LAUNCH WEBINAR ON 14 DECEMBER 2020



Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration

#GlasgowDeclaration





ON 14 DECEMBER 2020, IPES-FOOD AND NOURISH SCOTLAND WERE JOINED BY CITIES AND GOVERNMENTS FROM FIVE CONTINENTS, AND MORE THAN 250 PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE WORLD, FOR THE VIRTUAL LAUNCH OF THE GLASGOW FOOD AND CLIMATE DECLARATION - LESS THAN ONE YEAR BEFORE COP26.

Moderator

Mr. Olivier De Schutter, Co-chair of IPES-Food and UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Speakers

Mr. Pete Ritchie, Executive Director, Nourish Scotland

Mr. Jamie Morrison, Director, Food Systems and Food Safety Division, FAO

Ms. Mairi Gugeon, Scottish Minister for Rural Affairs & the Natural Environment

Mr. Justin Elicker, Mayor of New Haven

Ms. Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council

Mr. Álvaro Porro, City of Barcelona Commissioner of social economy, local development and food policy

Mr. Ir Ayhani Ma, Regional Secretary to the Mayor of Surakarta

Mr. Wilson Merino Rivadeneira, Executive Director of ConQuito

Ms. Anna Scavuzzo, Vice Mayor of Milan

Mr. José Graziano da Silva, former Director-General of FAO & Director of Instituto Fome Zero

WHY THE GLASGOW DECLARATION?

Global food systems account for 1/3 of total greenhouse gas emissions, and are a leading cause of environmental degradation, and socio-economic and health inequalities. The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration recognizes that local governments of all sizes, from towns and cities to states and regions, are pioneering sustainable food systems change.

COP26, set to take place in Glasgow in November 2021, will be a key opportunity to place food and local action at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency.

Around the world, local authorities are already leveraging a number of highly relevant policy tools to support the development of sustainable food systems: whether public procurement, zoning and urban planning, or the many strategies for waste management and reduction.

It is also at the local level that the integration of sectoral policies relating to food is easiest to achieve. As we know, food systems are shaped by a range of policies that are often disconnected from one another. But at the local level, we can create the tools for accountability and cooperation, and of citizen-led initiatives that can create and incentivize transformative action.

The Glasgow Declaration confirms the commitment of local and regional authorities to develop sustainable food policies, and calls on national governments to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency at COP26.

To fulfil the Paris Agreements and meet the Sustainable Development Goals, the time for ambitious climate action at all levels of governance is now.

"The road from Paris to Glasgow goes through the farm gate. There is no way we can deliver on the Paris Agreement and keep global warming in check unless we transform the way we do food and farming. But this is not just about reducing greenhouse emissions gas from the food system. At the same time we must also respect and restore nature, and increase diversity in our fields and on our plates. "

- Pete Ritchie, Nourish Scotland



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

Mr. Ritchie noted that beyond reducing carbon emissions, the transition to sustainable food systems means food security, zero hunger, food justice and access to healthy, nutritious food. "Local governments of all shapes and sizes are important. First because they hold many levers for change," he added.

Mr Ritchie noted the vital work already done in cities such as Copenhagen, London and Johannesburg, and in regions such as India's Andhra Pradesh.

Dr. Jamie Morrison reminded participants that cities are themselves significant contributors to climate change, accounting for 70% of global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. Food systems emit some 30% of greenhouse gases, of which food loss and waste is among the largest contributors. And let us not forget that 70% of food produced globally is already consumed by urban inhabitants – with the number set to increase further. The need for action at city and local level could not be more clear.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the importance of collaboration between different spheres of governance. It has highlighted the vital role of local and regional governments as key enablers in tackling global crises."

- Jamie Morrison, FAO



Ms. Gougeon highlighted that Scotland is the first national government in the world to sign the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, among Scotland's many ambitious commitments on climate, biodiversity and the environment. By 2025, Scotland will also be a Good Food Nation – one where "people take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve and eat every day".

Mayor Elicker noted that international efforts to scale up sustainable food systems through the Glasgow Declaration were "heartening", and that New Haven's efforts towards an environmentally sustainable and socially just food system have made great strides since work began in 2016. The city's vital efforts towards food justice operate across three pathways: health equity, socio-economic justice and environmental justice.

Ms. Aitken informed participants that, aside from its support for the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, Glasgow City Council has launched the public consultation of the Glasgow city food plan, a collaborative blueprint with community-led organizations to build a sustainable food policy. The plan supports a network of community pantries as a dignified alternative to food banks in response to food insecurity, particularly in areas of Glasgow where access to affordable, fresh food might be limited.

Mr. Porro noted that Barcelona is actively trying to create a holistic food policy approach in the city and is "breaking the ice", as until now, food policy has been the preserve of the Spanish national government and regions, but not cities. However, more than 90 policy actions will be launched in Barcelona in 2021. The city will act on: nutrition in kindergartens and nurseries (and scaling up to primary schools); public procurement for organic and locally produced food; wholesale markets for organic food, and; food waste prevention, amongst other areas.

"The Glasgow message as we head towards COP26, is that climate justice and social justice are inseparable. Social justice and social equity must be driven from climate action. And food is an enormous part of that."

- Susan Aitken, Glasgow City Council



Mr. Ayhani Ma acknowledged the challenges faced by the city of Surakarta, a city with high population density and particular vulnerability to the effects of climate change. In Surakarta, authorities are taking action and shortening food supply chains. This means improving access by local communities to various urban programs such as: horticultural nurseries, animal husbandry initiatives, aquaponics, fruit and vegetable gardens, and green spaces.

Mr. Merino noted the steps taken by the city of Quito to meet multiple demographic, environmental, and food systems challenges. Quito has big ambitions to become "carbon neutral, inclusive and resilient" by 2050, following a comprehensive SWOT analysis in 2017. The city plans to cut food waste and redistribute food resources among communities in the city. Quito's work continues unabated as the need for resilience has been made evident, as elsewhere, due to COVID-19.

Ms. Scavuzzo delivered a video message for the launch of the Glasgow Declaration, in her capacity as both vice-Mayor of Milan and as a coordinator of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. Ms Scavuzzo highlighted two key areas where Milan has made significant progress in relation to the food-climate nexus: food waste reduction measures, and the promotion of plant-based foods for the city's school canteens – reducing

the related GHG emissions of canteens by 20% in 5 years.

As a founding member of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and an active member of the C40 network, Milan "works extensively to foster climate action," through a food systems approach, "and naturally this needs multilateral support."

"We cities are ready to play our part in pioneering integrated food strategies to tackle climate change *and* drive food system sustainability. We call on national governments to join our efforts and commitments!"

- Anna Scavuzzo, City of Milan



Ms. Audrey Pulvar, in her capacity as Deputy Mayor of Paris, welcomed the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration on behalf of the City of Paris.

Ms. Pulvar noted: "It was very important for Paris to sign the Glasgow Declaration. This cooperation among cities is paramount at the European and international level if we are to have accessible, quality food for everyone, and if we want to ensure decent livelihoods for farmers – and of course, if we are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from food (systems)."

Ms. Claire Pritchard, Chair of the London Food Board, noted that London has had an integrated food strategy since 2005 and still leads the way as an active member of the C40 network and Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

"We hugely welcome the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration because we recognize that we need a focus on climate, and a call on our governments to respond. Cities are showing what they can do, and they are pushing boundaries. In this regard, you have seen the work done by London on planning and advertising, and that's why we welcome this partnership of inspiring cities."

Mr. Phélim Mac Cafferty, Council Leader of Brighton & Hove, welcomed the signing of the Glasgow Declaration, noting that "our relationship with food under the COVID-19 pandemic has been put under more strain and scrutiny than ever before." Councillor Mac Cafferty called for a healthier and more sustainable relationship with food in our cities. For its part, Brighton & Hove's "trailblazing" approach has extended to the emergency food provisions made for households during the height of the first lockdown of the pandemic.

Mr. Mac Cafferty added: "The climate emergency Brighton declared two years ago is intimately tied to food because a whole third of greenhouse gases come from food, and as such, commitments on food are central to our drive to be carbon neutral by 2030. While we as cities will play our part, making our cities more resilient to fluctuations in food supply, we now need all of our national governments to play their part too."

"The city of Istanbul will do its utmost to be a learner and, hopefully, implementer of the [integrated] policies of the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration."

- Hilal Elver, City of Istanbul



Ms. Hilal Elver, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, now representing the city of Istanbul, noted that the Glasgow Declaration offers an opportunity for the Right to Food to be integrated alongside calls for climate action.

Ms. Elver added that Istanbul, a city of some 16 million people, faced multiple challenges in its efforts towards sustainable food systems, but many opportunities exist for the city to make progress.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. José Graziano da Silva applauded the launch of the Glasgow Declaration on the road to the COP26 climate summit. He reminded participants of the entire meaning of Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger. It is clear that food systems and climate change must be addressed together, so that we can, for example, improve the health of water and soils, and ease the pressures that drive deforestation.

"In agriculture, as we adapt to environmentally friendly agro-ecological techniques, we are also helping to mitigate the effects of climate change. This offers a powerful new paradigm in response to climate change and hunger eradication," added Mr. da Silva.

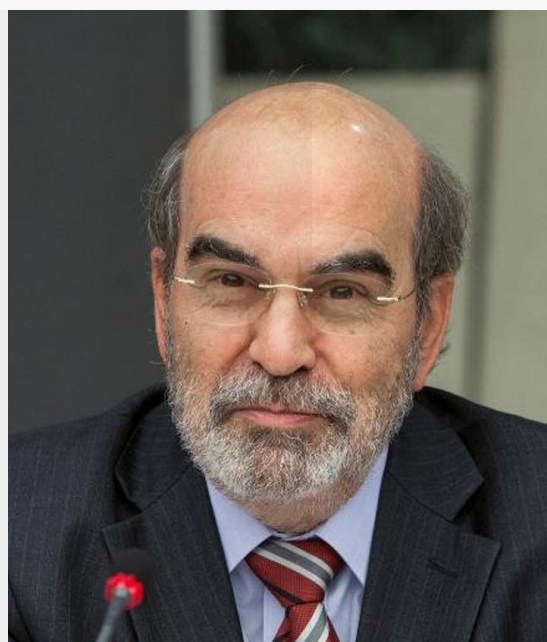
Mr. da Silva noted that until COP21 in Paris, agriculture had only been considered a problem for climate change. However, if properly managed, agriculture can be part of the solution – as advocated in more recent years.

"I see the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration as a step forward in endorsing a comprehensive approach for food systems in climate negotiations," he added.

Mr. da Silva stressed that we need a sustainable way of producing more fresh food and ensuring its affordability and accessibility. "For that, local governments and cities are the relevant actors, and play a vital role."

"The 'Zero Hunger' goal is not just about eradicating hunger. It's about promoting sustainable systems; and for this we need healthy soils, healthy seeds, and healthy diets for all. It means that food systems and climate change must be addressed together."

- José Graziano da Silva



Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration

Bringing food systems to COP26

With the technical cooperation of FAO



Food and Agriculture Organization
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INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF EXPERTS
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