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# Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration

## Concept note, questions & answers and timeline

### Background

Global food systems currently account for 21-37% of total GHGs.<sup>1</sup> They are a primary cause of environmental degradation, and significantly contribute to socio-economic and health inequalities. In turn, food systems are also being affected by the climate and nature crisis, which has already begun to affect the predictability of yields and food prices, the reliability of distribution, as well as food quality, food safety, and food security for all.

Thinking of food systems as a whole makes it easier to develop coherent policies, address tensions and trade-offs, and deliver the food systems transformation needed to tackle urgent environmental and nutritional challenges. Integrated food policies that take a food systems approach therefore hold the key to tackling the climate and nature emergencies, reducing the burden of malnutrition and chronic disease, and delivering the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>2</sup>

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility of our food systems, the vulnerability of both urban and rural populations, and highlighted the need for food system preparedness and resilience in the face of shocks and stresses.

The climate COP26, which will be held in Glasgow on 1-12 November 2021 in partnership between the UK and Italy, provides a key opportunity to highlight the role of substate actors in tackling the climate and nature emergencies through integrated policies on food. In addition, the Committee on Food Security is currently drawing up Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, and the UN Secretary General is convening the first Food Systems Summit in 2021. Along with the Nutrition for Growth Summit and Convention on Biological Diversity COP, these events are paying increasing attention to the role of substate actors and the importance of integrated food policies and provide an opportunity to raise awareness and call for action.

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC (2019). Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.- O. Pörtner, D. C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M. Belkacemi, J. Malley, (eds.)].

<sup>2</sup> Parsons K, (2019) Brief 3: Integrated Food Policy - What is it and how can it help connect food systems. In: Rethinking Food Policy: A Fresh Approach to Policy and Practice. London: Centre for Food Policy.

## **1. The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration**

*A call to action for all levels of government to tackle climate change through integrated sustainable food policies*

The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration pledges to accelerate the development of integrated food policies as a key tool in the fight against climate change, commits local authorities to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from urban and regional food systems in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, and calls on national governments and international institutions to act.

### About the declaration

#### **What is the objective of the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration?**

The [Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration](#) pledges to accelerate the development of integrated food policies as a key tool in the fight against climate change with co-benefits for biodiversity, ecosystem regeneration, circularity, access to sustainable and healthy diets for all, and the creation of resilient livelihoods for farm and food workers.

The declaration commits sub-national governments, including cities, regions, federal, and devolved states, to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from urban and regional food systems in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. It further calls on national governments to develop similar policies which build on, align with, and reinforce local change efforts. The declaration builds on previous work by the World Urban Forum Medellin, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, the C40 and others helping to strengthen the governance mechanisms for food systems transformation.

#### **Why a prominent role for sub-national actors?**

Local actors are often best placed to implement effective policies in many areas of food systems. Cities, regions, and sub-national states are already leading the way in pioneering integrated food policies and strategies to drive positive food system change at a local and regional level, where the majority of sustainable food system innovation is occurring.

This includes food waste reduction schemes; healthy and sustainable food procurement for public canteens; public campaigns to encourage behavioural change towards healthy diets; the creation of urban gardens, agricultural parks, incubator farms, regional food hubs, and farmers markets; frameworks to support short supply chain and social and solidarity economy initiatives; strengthening agroecological development plans; integrated territorial and urban food planning; strengthening urban-rural linkages; or the development of pesticide-free and GMO-free districts, bio-districts and organic regions.

At the same time, limited international and national government recognition, mandate and support for sub-national food system policies and partnerships hamper or fails to incentivize effective scaling and extension of this vital action. This declaration by

sub-national actors is designed to amplify their voices in global conversations on food and climate, nature and health, where to date they have had a limited input.

### **Why take a food systems approach to climate change?**

Food touches on many different policy areas and this often leads to policy contradictions and friction. A food systems approach makes it easier to develop coherent policies, address tensions and trade-offs, and deliver the food systems transformation needed to tackle urgent environmental and nutritional challenges. It considers the range of actors and interactions involved in producing, manufacturing, supplying, consuming and disposing of food, while recognizing their profound interconnections with public health and the underlying socio-cultural, economic, biophysical, and institutional factors that shape our food systems. A food system approach, therefore, considers that different problems in food systems are deeply interconnected and mutually reinforcing. Unless all food systems' impacts are considered together, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies associated with food production and consumption are likely to be inefficient.

### **Why integrated food policies?**

To achieve sustainable food systems transformation actions must be aligned horizontally across policy areas and vertically between different levels of governance to accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems. In most countries, responsibility for food systems is split across several ministries, with agriculture, trade and industry, health, labour, and environment departments typically setting agendas based on different priorities and conflicting objectives. There are also important inconsistencies between governance levels. The majority of sustainable food system innovations are occurring at the local and regional levels. However, limited international and national government recognition, mandate, and support for city and regional food system policies and partnerships fails to incentivize this type of experimentation. The development of integrated food policies would serve to correct these oversights, particularly through multi-actor and multi-level governance mechanisms. Integrated food policies can also create mechanisms for cross-sectoral work, inclusive priority setting and multi-level exchange of best practice and evaluation tools across governance levels, which are generally lacking.

### **Who are the core partners of the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration?**

The partners behind the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration are IPES-Food, Nourish Scotland, ICLEI, Rikolto, the Under2 Coalition, FAO Urban Food Agenda, MUFPP, and Sustainable Food Places.

## Feedback and outreach

### How can sub-national governments provide feedback on the declaration?

Sub-national governments are invited to provide feedback on whether they would be able to sign the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration in its current form and submit comments or suggestions **by filling in this [form](#)**.

### What is the timeline for pre-signature feedback?

The deadline for submitting pre-signature feedback is September 18<sup>th</sup> 2020

### When will the Declaration be open for signatures?

The declaration will be open for signatures via a website form from October 12<sup>th</sup> 2020.

### How will the Declaration be presented at COP26?

The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration will be presented and adopted as part of a Food Systems Day at COP26.

### What is our strategy for the UN Food Systems Summit, the Nutrition for Growth summit and the Convention on Biological Diversity meetings?

We are planning to present the Glasgow Food and Climate declaration as part of these events, as well as COP26, all of which are paying increasing attention to the role of substate actors and the importance of integrated food policies. We are currently monitoring the scheduling of the postponed events and updating our plans accordingly.

## Timeline

Time period	Stage / events
March - June 2020	The declaration and the accompanying document is drafted by <a href="#">partners</a> .
June - September 2020	The declaration is shared with potential signatories for feedback and pre-signatures.
18 of September 2020	Deadline for sub-national governments to <a href="#">provide feedback</a> by
12th October 2020	The final declaration opens for signatures via a website form
Early November 2020	'1 year to COP26' online launch of the declaration co-hosted by Glasgow Council
TBD	UNFCCC Bonn intersessional meeting
TBD	Convention on Biological Diversity COP and intersessional meeting

TBD		Nutrition for growth summit and UN Food Systems Summit
1-12 2021	November	The declaration will be presented at COP26 as part of a Food System day

## 2. Metrics: Measuring food system impact at the subnational level

*A proposed contribution to the community of practice ahead of COP26 and the UN Food Systems Summit*

In developing, implementing, and monitoring integrated food policies, local policymakers need to be able to measure the current impact of their food system across a number of policy domains, to devise and justify effective investments and regulations, and to measure change over time. Fundamentally, policymakers need to be able to answer the question: “How well are we nourishing our citizens, and at what cost to the wider wellbeing of people and planet?”

Devising useful metrics is a complex challenge, which starts with defining their scope. At the global scale, local food systems not only impact greenhouse gas emissions, but also biodiversity loss, water abstraction, air quality, labour standards, and animal welfare. At the local scale, they impact jobs, health, household food security, nutrient cycling, social capital, and landscape.

Relevant data may not be available or robust at the subnational level – and the costs of collecting data may outweigh its usefulness. Positive and negative impacts in different policy domains may not be easily comparable where there are trade-offs and time lags, early costs accruing to some actors and later benefits to others, or where there are win-wins. Subnational authorities have different political and practical capacities to shape their local food system. If policymakers can use and communicate a robust but manageable set of metrics on what more sustainable food systems could look like, they will be better placed to secure public and political support for integrated food policies. Commonly used metrics also make it easier for policymakers to locate, evaluate, and adapt interventions from other cities and regions.

### Proposal

In parallel with the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, IPES-Food and Nourish Scotland will:

- Gather information on models and metrics currently being tested or used to measure food system impact and identify gaps;<sup>3</sup>
- Engage with cities and regions who are early supporters of the Glasgow Declaration to better understand what they have and what they need by way of metrics;
- Engage with relevant research institutes to understand possible fit with other climate change metrics being developed at city level and/or food system metrics at national level;
- Produce an initial report setting out how best to accompany the Glasgow Declaration with a metrics framework, including relevant case studies.

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<sup>3</sup> Including but not limited to the work of RUAF, FAO, Milan Pact, Eat Lancet/C40, Barilla Foundation, Urban Climate Change Resource Network.

## **Activities**

A virtual meeting focused on the development of metrics will be set in early July.

Participants will include:

- City-based policymakers – including for example Copenhagen, London, New York, Ghent, Malmo, and Glasgow, as well as cities with experience in using the RUAf indicator framework – such as Toronto, Colombo, Lusaka, and Quito;
- Partners already engaged in developing and using food system metrics – including Eat Lancet, FAO, Milan Pact, RUAf, WWF, UK Sustainable Food Places, Under 2 Coalition;
- Scientists with a particular interest in this area of work – including Cynthia Rosenzweig (Columbia University), Dave Reay (Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation), and Tim Benton (Chatham House).