



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
Joint Sustainability Committee
Recommendation 20210128-2C –Support for the Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration

The Joint Sustainability Committee voted to recommend that the City of Austin support the Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration, outlined below.

Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration

A commitment by subnational governments to tackle the climate emergency through integrated food policies and a call on national governments to act.

This Declaration brings together all types and sizes of local authorities – from small and medium sized towns to mega-cities, districts and regions, territories, federal states and provinces – to speak with a unified voice in renewing their commitments to develop sustainable food policies, promote mechanisms for joined-up action and call on national governments to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency.

1. *Concerned* that the COVID-19 crisis has exposed the fragility of our food systems, the vulnerabilities of large parts of urban and rural populations and the critical need for preparedness and resilience in the face of shocks;

2. *Acknowledging* that food systems currently account for 21-37%¹ of total GHGs, and are at the heart of many of the world’s major challenges today including biodiversity loss, enduring hunger and malnutrition, and an escalating public health crisis;

3. *Recognizing* that unsustainable dynamics are locked in along the whole food chain, primarily stemming from industrial food and farming systems;

4. *Recognizing* that extreme inequalities are pervasive throughout the food system, and are disproportionately affecting communities including people living in poverty, people experiencing racism, people displaced due to climate change or conflict, people with precarious legal status, and many others; and furthermore that many of these same groups are exploited for their labour globally;

¹ 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.)].

5. *Convinced*, therefore, that only a food systems approach targeting all the Sustainable Development Goals can identify effective intervention points to accelerate climate action while delivering many co-benefits, including the promotion of biodiversity, ecosystem regeneration and resilience, circularity, equity, access to healthy and sustainable diets for all, and the creation of resilient livelihoods for farm and food workers;
6. *Recognizing* the need to involve all food system stakeholders in decision-making for a sustainable and just transition – including food and farm workers, civil society groups, researchers, indigenous communities, women, and especially youth whose future are the most at risk from the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss;
7. *Recalling* that cities and regions are leading the way in pioneering integrated food policies and strategies at the local level to reduce their environmental footprint, drive positive food system change and ensure greater resilience to shocks;
8. *Building* on the number of commitments on sustainable urban and regional food policies already made by cities, local and regional governments over the last two decades, in particular the 2014 World Urban Forum Medellin, the 2015 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP), the 2015 Seoul Declaration, the 2016 New Urban Agenda, and the 2019 C40 Good Food Cities Declaration;
9. *Recognizing* that actions must be aligned horizontally (across policy areas) and vertically (between different levels of governance) to accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems;
10. *Emphasizing* that cross-sectoral, multi-level, and multi-actor governance of food systems is required in order for sustainable and just food systems to take root, and that this requires national governments to take a proactive and enabling role;
11. *Acknowledging* that cities and regions are becoming a high ambition coalition for sustainable food system development, and that the rapidly growing global movement of city and regional food partnerships provides a uniquely powerful mechanism to deliver these reforms;
12. *Acknowledging* that without accompanying regulatory and legislative reforms at the national level, the impact of such partnerships and policies will be limited;
13. We, the undersigned elected leaders of subnational governments, in anticipation of the 26th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC in Glasgow, commit to accelerate climate action by building and facilitating sustainable food systems transformation, by:
14. ***Developing and implementing integrated food policies and strategies*** as key tools in the fight against climate change; and ensuring that these instruments adopt a food systems approach that involves actors across all parts of the food chain; include metrics to assess GHG emissions reduction targets from food systems, as well as opportunities for cooperation and best practice sharing between subnational governments.
15. ***Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from urban and regional food systems*** in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, and building sustainable food systems that are able to rebuild ecosystems and deliver safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, and sustainable diets for all.

16. **Calling on national governments to establish supportive and enabling policy frameworks and multi-level and multi-actor governance mechanisms**, allowing coordinated decision-making on food systems. These mechanisms will support the drafting of inclusive national food policies to be included into the revisions of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Record of the vote: Motion to approve by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Phillips. Motion passes 10 approve, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Date of approval: January 28, 2021

Attest: *Zachary Baumer*

Zach Baumer, Liaison