MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT

Prefeitura de CURITIBA

3rd MUFPP South America Regional Forum Curitiba

Curitiba Final Declaration

19 November 2026 – Curitiba
3rd MUFPP South American Regional Forum

Since 2015, South America has demonstrated a steadily growing commitment to resilient, sustainable, and equitable food systems through the signing of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. To date, the region counts 40 signatory cities among the over 350 that have joined the Milan Pact worldwide, and these cities submitted 58 practices to the 2025 edition of the Milan Pact Awards, out of a total of 347 submissions received from around the world.

The commitment and collaboration of institutions across the region have been clearly demonstrated through formal cooperation agreements with organizations such as Mercociudades, which has also established a working group dedicated to urban food policies, as well as with non-governmental organizations. One example of the power of cooperation is the partnership with Comida do Amanhã, which has supported the development of the 3rd MUFPP Regional Forum from the very beginning.

Four years after the 8th Global Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2022, during which the 2nd Regional Forum for South America also took place, and following the Global Forum held in Milan in 2025, South American cities convened once again, in Curitiba, for the 3rd Regional Forum for South America. The Forum was organized together with the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger, alongside the International Seminar on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture.

Looking at the role of cities and metropolitan areas through the lens of multistakeholder governance

We, representatives of local governments committed to the transformation of urban food systems, gathered in Curitiba on the occasion of the 3rd MUFPP South American Regional Forum, recognize that cities and metropolitan areas, understood as large urban conglomerates together with their surrounding rural territories and smaller urban centers in a specific bioregion, are key to addressing current and future food system challenges in South America.

As local governments, we have significant leverage to mitigate today's most pressing challenges and help our communities adapt to new circumstances. The connection between cities and metropolitan areas is where opportunities and challenges relating to the production, distribution, access to and consumption of food converge. At the same time, they are areas where the effects of climate change, social inequalities and growing pressures on natural resources are felt with particular intensity.

Tightening the above mentioned connection offers an opportunity for local economic growth, resiliency facing the climate crisis and local food sovereignty. Doing so calls for closer coordination among urban and metropolitan stakeholders, acting as a single system through agile and integrated multilevel governance and through formal and effective mechanisms of cooperation, for the benefit of citizens and local communities.

Building on the MUFPP Framework For Action and Final Declaration of the MUFPP Global Forum 2025, we shall move from fragmented agendas to integrated solutions and concrete actions. Through multilevel governance and multistakeholder approach, cities and metropolitan areas represent the context where food systems can that support local food sovereignty and produce nutritious food.

For these reasons, we:

- Call on national and subnational governments to recognize the essential role of cities and metropolitan areas in delivering food-related services to citizens, including through the explicit delegation of responsibilities, the establishment of regulatory frameworks, the allocation of public funds, where applicable, or other instruments of multi-level governance.

- Call on development banks and funding institutions to recognize local food systems as key to the resilience, food sovereignty and prosperity of South America, and to provide accessible, long-term finance for food system projects.

- Commit to addressing the climate crisis with cities and their rural territories acting as one entity, protecting peri-urban agricultural land, ecosystems and biodiversity, and promoting agroecology to build food systems able to withstand shocks.

- Commit to using school meals and public procurement as a lever to favour agroecological produce, support decent rural work, and bring health and educational benefits.

- Commit to a just transition of food systems that takes account of local food sovereignty, reduces food waste, strengthens short supply chains and the formalisation of small-scale production, expands circular economy approaches, creates decent and sustainability-focused jobs, and supports food producers in adapting to new environmental and trade standards.

- Commit to participatory food governance and cooperation, involving civil society, family farmers, urban and peri-urban producers, universities and research institutions, and youth, in collaboration with regional networks such as Mercociudades. We will share replicable practices and monitor progress through the MUFPP Monitoring Framework, with transparency and accountability.

Recalling the founding principles of the MUFPP, we reiterate that the right to food for all is our shared responsibility, along with the protection of soils and territories. and that it calls on us to build local food systems that nourish people, restore the planet, sustain peace and drive the prosperity of our region.

Adopted by consensus during the Closing Plenary Session of the MUFPP 2025 Global Forum, held on November 19, 2026, in Curitiba, Brazil.