



MERCOCIUDADES

LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)

**for mutual cooperation between MERCOCIUDADES and the MUFPP
towards urban food system transformation**

BETWEEN

The MUFPP Secretariat established within the Municipality of Milan, with headquarters in Milan, Piazza della Scala 2 (Tax Code 01199250158), represented by the Vice Mayor of Milan Ms. Anna Scavuzzo

AND

MERCOCIUDADES, with headquarters in Montevideo, (Uruguay), Ave. Luís Piera 1994, MERCOSUR Building (Zip Code 11200), represented by the Sao Paulo City Mayor Mrs Ricardo Nunes

WHEREAS

1. The **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact** (MUFPP), launched and chaired by the Milan Municipality, is the main international legacy of the Milan Expo 2015 "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", being an international agreement amongst cities around the world that consider food as a gateway to the sustainable development of cities. Signatory cities committed themselves "to develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, that minimize waste and conserve biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change". It represents the first and foremost network for cities and international stakeholders working to shape innovative urban food policies for the management and governance of local food systems. Currently, the Milan Pact brings together over 270 signatory cities from all over the world.
2. Mercociudades was founded in 1995 by 12 cities from MERCOSUR member countries, with the vocation of a regional integration respectful of the diversity and willing to build committed citizenship. It is currently made up of 375 cities in South America, with more than 120 million inhabitants, and which, based on the Statutory reform agreed at the Assembly of the 27th Summit, will allow the adhesion of other cities in Latin America and the Caribbean, expanding the continental coverage. Since its inception, its objectives have been: promotion of regional integration to ensure the development of cities and well-being of its people in South America, Latin America and the Caribbean; Creation of joint policies between cities and promotion of the exchange of experiences.
3. The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact is composed by a preamble and a Framework for Action listing 37 recommended actions, clustered in 6 categories to guide the action of signatory

cities. For each recommended action there are specific indicators to monitor progresses in implementing the Pact. 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 with the aim of , offer concrete examples of the food policies that cities are implementing in each of the 6 Pact categories. Thanks to the Awards the MUFPP has gathered over 620 food policy practices, creating the most comprehensive library of urban food policies for the benefit of the entire community. This knowledge is at the basis of the MUFPP Fellowship Programme, which engages cities in capacity building activities, to develop and strengthen their skills and acquire tools and knowledge to achieve their food policy objectives.

4. Considering the interest of the MUFPP in collaborating with organizations that can act as focal points, active on food system transformation, competent in city-to-city cooperation, and considering the willingness to work with South American cities in order to strengthen the MUFPP in the region and to support them in the development of sustainable, healthy and just food systems.
5. Considering the experience gained by Mercociudades in supporting the development of public policies among its network of signatories cities; that in different regions and on a global scale is accompanied and supported by various organizations with which it addresses different thematic axes and develop joint projects to accelerate compliance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reaffirming the political and institutional commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG); that the Assembly of the 27th Summit of Mercocities, held from November 29 to December 1, 2022 in Montevideo, approved -at the proposal of the city of Rosario as Vice Presidency of Social Development and Health 2022-2023-, the willingness to work with the MUFPP to promote cooperation between both networks to facilitate joint strategies that build caring, environmentally sustainable, and innovative cities.

NOW, THEREFORE, the MUFPP Secretariat and MERCOCIUDADES (hereinafter jointly the "Parties") intend to establish a collaboration to work towards food system transformation, in the following terms:

1. The MUFPP Secretariat established within the Municipality of Milan, recognizes MERCOCIUDADES as a strategic partner for the development of urban food policies among MERCOCIUDADES cities;
2. MERCOCIUDADES agrees to support the MUFPP Secretariat in the development of awareness strategies among the local governments of the network for the adoption of policies aligned to the 6 categories of the Milan Pact to further promote the transformation of the food system at the city-region scale; as well as being able incorporating the perspective of the MUFPP in the Thematic Units, Groups and Work Commissions of the

network, and in the annual planning of the South-South Cooperation Program and the School of Resilience.

3. MERCOCIUDADES and the MUFPP will support each other in developing joint advocacy actions towards national governments, regional and international organizations with the aim of positioning urban food policies as a key priority in the political agenda, as well as urging the creation of new funding opportunities for urban food policies in the region;
4. MERCOCIUDADES and MUFPP Secretariat will organize events and webinars with interested MERCOCIUDADES and MUFPP cities, on specific topics of their interest;
5. MERCOCIUDADES will collaborate with the MUFPP Secretariat in developing the MUFPP Fellowship Program as advancement of the Milan Pact Awards;
6. The Parties agree to work for a joint participation in funding opportunities for calls for philanthropic foundations, national, regional and international funds;
7. The Parties might organize joint communication actions, to give visibility to the activities developed under this LOI;
8. The Parties might regularly exchange information regarding their respective relevant activities and agreed to jointly produce a simple annual report to be sent to the MUFPP Steering Committee;
9. Any divergences among the Parties related to the present Letter of Intent shall be settled amicably between the parties;
10. This Letter of Intent is a statement of intent and creates not legally binding obligations on the Parties, the letter shall have effect as of the date of signature by the Parties and will be effective until the 31st December 2025, with the possibility of renewal through a simple exchange of letters;
11. In the event of the creation of a legal entity of the "Milan Urban Food Policy Pact", the relationships and activities established with this LOI will pass to the new organization;
12. This Letter of Intent is drawn up only in the English language and consists of 3 (three) pages.

City of Milan
Vice Mayor

in charge of Food Policy

Ms.. Anna Scavuzzo

MERCOCIUDADES
President 2023-2024
Mayor of Sao Paulo
Ricardo Nunes