

A large graphic on the left side of the page. It features a teal-colored fork with a white cloud shape cut out of its handle. The fork's tines are visible on the left edge. The background behind the graphic is a light blue gradient with soft, rounded shapes.

# BARCELONA CHALLENGE

Good Food and Climate

## Executive summary

Barcelona World Sustainable Food Capital 2021

7<sup>th</sup> MUFPP Global Forum



## WHY ADDRESSING THE FOOD-CLIMATE NEXUS FROM AN URBAN PERSPECTIVE?

After more than a century of industrialisation, deforestation and large-scale agriculture, the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which are responsible for global warming, have risen to the highest levels in the last three million years<sup>1</sup>. If GHG emissions continue to increase at the current rate, global warming is likely to reach 1.5 °C between 2030 and 2052. Worryingly, the probability that the annual mean global temperature will be 1.5 °C warmer in the next 5 years is 20%<sup>2</sup>, and this figure is increasing with time with the risk of exceeding the threshold of irreversibility. The emissions associated with the world's agri-food system (including production, processing, packaging, transportation and distribution of food) are between 21% and 37% of the total net anthropogenic GHG emissions<sup>3</sup>. A shift to plant-based diets, sustainable and locally sourced foods, and a reduction of food waste can greatly contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation<sup>4</sup>.



## BARCELONA CHALLENGE

Good Food and Climate

Climate change can be mitigated by changing how we eat. Over 70% of the world's food production is consumed in cities<sup>5</sup>. Local agri-food systems are thus essential for climate action, and can prevent food vulnerability and enhance food justice to ensure access to sufficient, sustainable, healthy and nutritious diets for all. Cities are at the forefront of cultural and social change, and key players in the implementation of local food policies for climate action. Working together with residents and supra-municipal authorities, a change on agri-food systems can reduce drastically the GHG emissions of cities.

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1. <https://www.un.org/es/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/index.html>  
2. [https://hadleyserver.metoffice.gov.uk/wmolc/WMO\\_GADCU\\_2019.pdf](https://hadleyserver.metoffice.gov.uk/wmolc/WMO_GADCU_2019.pdf)  
3. [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2020/06/SRCCL\\_SPM\\_es.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2020/06/SRCCL_SPM_es.pdf)  
4. <https://eatforum.org/learn-and-discover/the-planetary-health-diet/>  
5. <https://www.fao.org/3/i7658e/i7658e.pdf>





## WHAT IS THE BARCELONA CHALLENGE FOR GOOD FOOD AND CLIMATE HOPING TO ACHIEVE?

In 2019, 14 global cities signed an ambitious declaration. Good Food Cities: Achieving a Planetary Health Diet for All was launched by C40 aiming to accelerate the transformation of urban food-systems in order to tackle the climate emergency. Through this declaration, all signatory cities committed to working towards achieving a Planetary Health Diet for all by 2030<sup>11</sup>, a balanced and nutritious diet, culturally, geographically and demographically appropriate. In order to do so, it encouraged measures that would align cities' food procurement to the Planetary Health Diet, support an overall increase in the consumption of organic, healthy and plant-based food, reduce food loss and waste by 50%, and develop strategies to implement these commitments, for example by integrating them into the city's Climate Action Plan. Signing this Declaration was a bold step for many cities around the world as it showed that they understood the imperative of transforming the way we eat in order to tackle the climate emergency. Many cities including Barcelona, Milan, Los Angeles, Seoul and Lima are already implementing successful strategies to achieve the outlined goals.

The year 2021 is becoming a turning point in which cities are recognised as key agents in shaping food and climate actions. The UN Food Systems Summit<sup>12</sup> has stressed the important role that food systems will play in achieving the SDGs, and has also highlighted the wide range of possible strategies for change ("gamechangers") that can be put in place by a multitude of actors, including cities. Likewise, recognising both the importance of transforming food systems to tackle the climate emergency and also the role cities can play in this transformation will be critical issues at the COP 26 in November in Glasgow. In this sense, the Glasgow Declaration<sup>13</sup> represents a unified commitment

by subnational governments to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency. The two aforementioned UN Summits create a promising opportunity to advance political action regarding the food-climate nexus.

Within this context, an alliance of cities, city networks, expert groups and governmental agencies have identified a window of opportunity to address the food-climate nexus by relaunching the Good Food Declaration in the context of the 7<sup>th</sup> MUFPP Global Forum: *The Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate*.

This renewed call for action aims at building on and expanding the urban food policy commitments that have previously been made, and the processes that are already underway regarding the production, distribution and consumption of sufficient, healthy, just, sustainable, and culturally acceptable food for the entire population and the reduction of food waste. In this sense, *The Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate* looks to build on the MUFPP by introducing cross-cutting commitments in which special emphasis is placed on climate action. The proposal is built upon the MUFPP's Framework for Action, as it is the most recognised and used framework for developing local food policies.

11. <https://eatforum.org/learn-and-discover/the-planetary-health-diet/#targetText=The%20planetary%20health%20diet%20is,of%20fruits%2C%20vegetables%20and%20nuts.>

12. <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit>

13. <https://www.glasgowdeclaration.org/>

# ROADMAP

*The Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate* aims to become a tool that can be used all over the world to enable local authorities, in strong collaboration with residents as key actors, to engage in climate action by compiling, visualising and/or catalysing specific actions that target different areas of the agri-food system. These actions will have an impact on the mitigation of and adaptation to the climate emergency over the 2021-2030 period. It will simultaneously contribute to foregrounding the commitment and leadership of cities on these topics.

Cities joining *The Barcelona Challenge* will get high-profile visibility in climate action arenas at the international level. They will also enter a community of like-minded cities, national and international city networks, civil society organisations and other key stakeholders that will help them strengthen the mitigation and adaptation impact of their food policies, acting as a guidance framework, providing examples of good practices and opportunities for learning, exchange and monitoring.



# 4

## WHO IS PROMOTING THE BARCELONA CHALLENGE FOR GOOD FOOD AND CLIMATE?

The promoting organisations are Barcelona City Council<sup>14</sup>, and the following city networks: Red de Ciudades por la Agroecología<sup>15</sup> (Cities for Agroecology Spanish Network), the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, C40, Terres en villes<sup>16</sup> (France) and Sustainable Food Places<sup>17</sup> (UK).



# 5

## WHAT DOES THE BARCELONA CHALLENGE FOR GOOD FOOD AND CLIMATE PROPOSE?

The *Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate* addresses two key issues: the mitigation of and adaptation to the climate emergency, through a commitment to transform local agri-food systems to ensure access to sufficient, sustainable, healthy and nutritious diets for all, therefore preventing food vulnerability and enhancing food justice.

### CHALLENGE 1



## MITIGATION

Reduce the GHG emissions of agri-food systems to limit global warming<sup>18</sup>.

### CHALLENGE 2



## ADAPTATION

Adapt local agri-food systems to enable them to be more resilient during extreme climate events.

14. <https://www.barcelona.cat/en/>

15. <https://www.ciudadesagroecologicas.eu/>

16. <https://terresenvilles.org/>

17. <https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/>

18. Cities will be able to commit to a specific reduction in their agri-food systems' GHG emissions. *The Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate Toolkit* can be used to estimate the projected magnitude of this reduction based on the proposals established in international scientific research. The toolkit also enables the user to estimate other multi-dimensional benefits (socio-ecological benefits and economic returns) of adopting healthy and sustainable diets for all. Cities are encouraged to commit beyond the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) which are at the heart of the Paris Agreement.

*The Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate* aims to overcome these challenges by inspiring and supporting specific actions under the six action categories of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. For each category there is a main focus for the actions to be undertaken. Signatories of the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration will find easy read-across particularly with regards to sustainable diets, nutrition, food waste and social and economic equity.



**1. Ensuring an enabling environment for effective action (governance):** The main focus for *The Barcelona Challenge* in this category is to establish coherent and participative governance mechanisms that allow for the co-production of public policies on climate, food justice, nutrition security and nature, in order to strengthen food systems resilience in the face of extreme climate events, and include food in local Climate Action Plans.



**2. Sustainable diets and nutrition:** The main focus is to ensure the transition to sufficient, sustainable, nutritious and culturally appropriate diets for the entire population, in line with the Planetary Health Diet guidelines by increasing overall healthy, plant-based food consumption and fully aligning public food procurement with the Planetary Health Diet by 2030.



**3. Social and economic equity:** The main focus is to embed the Planetary Health Diet and sustainable (agroecological) food supply approaches within services and programs addressing food vulnerability and poverty with special consideration given to children's and other vulnerable groups' diet.



**4. Food production:** The main focus is to promote sustainable, socially fair and equitable forms of production and processing of local, healthy food by ensuring the territorial planning and management of local resources.



**5. Food supply and distribution:** The main focus is to re-territorialise and restructure socially and economically viable food distribution and logistics networks (via wholesale, municipal or farmers markets, local food networks, small food retailers and public food procurement services) to adapt them to extreme events and to reduce impact on nature and communities.



**6. Food waste:** The main focus is to reduce food loss and waste by 50% by 2030 (from a 2015 baseline), and reuse and recycle food waste and other food-related waste.

## 6

## HOW CAN CITIES JOIN THE BARCELONA CHALLENGE FOR GOOD FOOD AND CLIMATE?

Cities all around the world can join *The Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate*. To do so, they must record, via *The Barcelona Challenge's Toolkit*<sup>19</sup>, the actions they are already developing or are planning to develop by 2030. It is worth noting that each city may have slightly different commitments, based on their different agri-food, political, social and economic contexts, which will be shaping differently their city's Climate Action Plans. Cities are encouraged to develop at least one action under three of the categories (or under the six categories for cities member of the Core Group). Examples of actions that can be implemented can be found on the Challenge's website. It is important to note that this framework can be tailored to local contexts, and other actions than those suggested can be included.

Interested cities should go through the Challenge's toolkit and upload the City's Official Commitment document<sup>20</sup> with the required information: a summary of the actions they intend to work on, the chosen categories, the timeframe for each action (2021 to 2030) and the department(s) that will be in charge of implementing those actions.

*The Barcelona Challenge's Toolkit* allows cities to estimate, record, visualise and download the potential impacts of achieving the Challenge's commitments. These refer not only to GHG emissions reduction, but also to other social, ecological or economic impacts (e.g. lives saved, jobs created, water saved, etc).

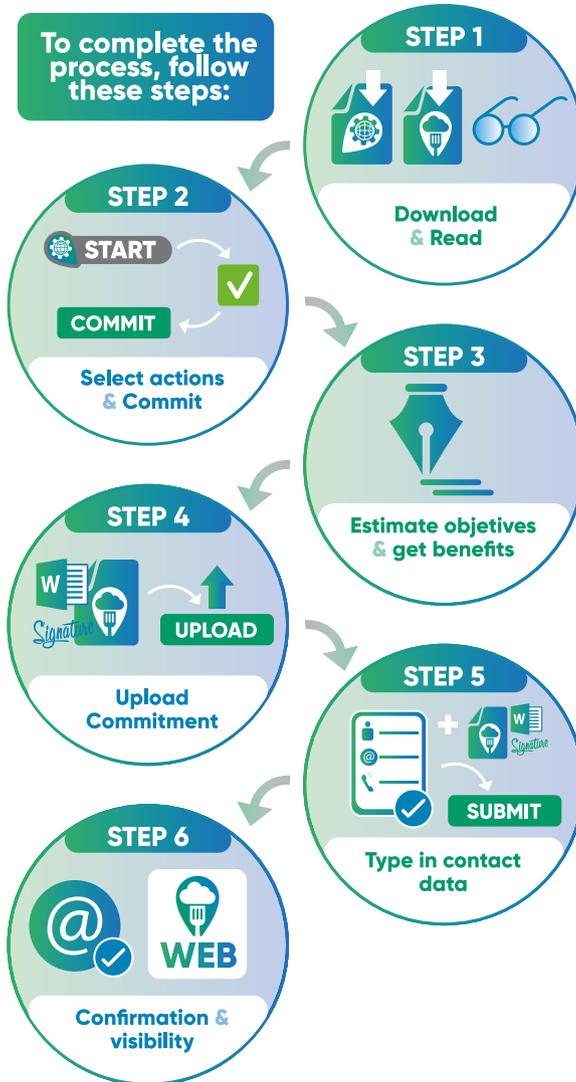
*The Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate* can receive endorsement from partners and supporters, such as national or international city networks, civil society organisations and other types of organisations that are not cities but are interested in collaborating and strengthening this process.



# TOOLKIT

## BARCELONA CHALLENGE

Good Food And Climate



19. <https://toolkit.thebcnchallenge.org/>

20. [https://toolkit.thebcnchallenge.org/docs/BarcelonaChallengeCitysOfficialCommitment\\_EN.docx](https://toolkit.thebcnchallenge.org/docs/BarcelonaChallengeCitysOfficialCommitment_EN.docx)



# 7

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MUFPP GLOBAL FORUM?

It is possible to join *The Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate* until March 2022. Then, two actions will be launched that will run until the end of the year. The first one will involve the monitoring of cities' commitments through a report: "*The Barcelona Challenge, one year after*" that will be presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> MUFPP Global Forum. National and international city networks are invited to collaborate in supporting and monitoring the development of their members' commitments. The second action will consist in organising a program of learning exchange for council technicians and elected officials between cities addressing climate change through sustainable and healthy food policies. Partners and supporters of *The Barcelona Challenge* are encouraged to reinforce this program.

Due to the alignment of the ambitions of the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration and *The Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate*, C40 cities committing to *The Barcelona Challenge* (with compulsory commitments in, at least, categories 2 and 6) will be eligible to be listed as signatories of the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration. Similarly, existing C40 cities signatory of the Good Food Cities Declaration can mobilise their current commitments as part of their submission to *The Barcelona Challenge*.

PROMOTED BY



SUPPORTED BY



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