

Text to be signed by the elected officials present at the annual meeting of the Spanish Network of Cities for Agroecology, and / or the motions to be presented in the Town Halls around 2020 World Food Day¹

Declaration of Valladolid for the promotion of local agri-food systems to address global risks

Gathered in Valladolid, on October 1, 2020, the undersigned, institutional representatives of the municipalities adhered to the Network of Cities for Agroecology and other Spanish municipalities, gathered on the occasion of the Network's IV Meeting, we reaffirm our commitment to promote and strengthen local and sustainable food systems to address global risks, such as the climate emergency or pandemics such as the one caused by COVID-19,

CONSIDERING:

That agri-food systems continue to be one of the main drivers of climate change and environmental degradation and that there are clear interrelationships between our health, ecosystems, food delivery chains, dietary patterns and planetary limits, as recognized by the European Commission in the *Farm to Table Strategy* (2020), and that such challenges also present convergent solutions, which urgently require putting the sustainability of life at the center of the economy;

that the recent episodes of global health and ecological crises affect the most vulnerable, unprotected and disadvantaged social groups to a greater extent, and represent a high increase in food insecurity;

that the perspective of agri-food systems is central to understanding and acting in the face of global risks, because it is estimated that these systems currently contribute 21-37% of global Greenhouse Gas emissions (IPCC 2019), and due to the association of pandemics such as that caused by COVID-19 with the transmission of diseases from animals to humans, and with the increasing global pressure on ecosystems;

the central role of agroecology in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development (2015) as proposed by the United Nations; in the reinforcement of food and nutrition security, from the local to the global, as recognized by the Committee on World Food Security in its report *Agroecological and other innovative approaches* (2019); and in the recovery of a balanced relationship between nature and economy, as proposed by the *Farm to Table* and *Biodiversity 2030* strategies presented by the European Commission (2020);

the leadership of local administrations in transitions towards sustainability in agri-food systems, as recognised in the Milan Pact on Urban Food Policies (Milan, 2015), the New Urban Agenda (Quito, 2018) and the Good Food Cities declaration promoted by the C-40 Network (2019).

¹ October, the 16th of 2020

MANIFEST:

That local food policies have to play a central role in strengthening our communities in the face of crises such as COVID-19 or the effects of the climate emergency.

That health and ecological sustainability must be inseparable in order to promote, in an integral way, the well-being and safety of people and their communities. In this sense, the food policies that we promote are essential to enable a nutritious and quality diet for the entire population.

That the production and distribution of local and sustainable food must be considered a basic system for supplying our cities and towns, of equal importance to those of water or energy.

Therefore, **the undersigned, as institutional representatives of our municipalities, commit ourselves to develop, in the short term, specific actions to promote sustainable local food systems in the face of global risks, in the following priority areas:**

1. Sustainable and resilient food systems: promote sustainable production, transformation, distribution and consumption of food, with an agroecological approach and from the articulation and cooperation between urban and rural territories.

2. Territorial planning: protect agricultural soils and other food resources (water, traditional agroecological knowledge, landraces biodiversity, etc.) as part of the blue and green infrastructure networks; and incorporate in general urban planning instruments for the protection and promotion of local and sustainable agri-food production, transformation and distribution.

3. Right to food: ensure access to sustainable, healthy, quality and just food for all social groups, and especially the most vulnerable, in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food promoted by the United Nations Food Organization and Agriculture (2005).

4. Community activation: strengthen the role of social agents and local associative fabrics that work by providing solutions and improving the management of food crises, establishing synergies based on innovation, sustainability and resilience.

5. Good governance: promoting coherence between the different public policies for the management of global risks, avoiding solutions that, in the long run, reinforce the causes of crises.

Said actions will be carried out in cooperation and coordination with other local entities articulated around the Network of Cities for Agroecology, and with its support. The operational reference for its development is included in the report "Local Agri-food Systems to face Global Risks: from Covid-19 to the Climate Crisis", to be presented on October 1, 2020, on the occasion of the IV Annual Meeting of the Spanish Network of Cities for the Agroecology.