**Right to the City and Right to Food:**

**realizing territorial justice and rural-urban linkages**

Side Event, Wednesday 10 July, 2-3:30pm

Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice (Susan Berresford Room, Floor 11)

320 E 43rd St, New York, NY

**Registration: LINK**

**The Right to the City in the High-Level Political Forum**

*The Right to the City is the right of all inhabitants, present and  
future, permanent and temporary, to inhabit, use, occupy,  
produce, govern and enjoy just, inclusive, safe and sustainable  
cities, villages and human settlements, defined as commons  
essential to a full and decent life.*

After the recognition of the Right to the City in the New Urban Agenda resulting from the Habitat III process, the Global Platform for the Right to the City has been working to align different international agendas and commitments with the 8 components of the Right to the City. The [Right to the City Agenda](http://www.righttothecityplatform.org.br/wp-content/uploads/right-to-the-city-agenda_GPR2C-2018.pdf) was presented during the High-Level Political Forum 2018 as an advocacy tool to show how the Right to the City is already recognized and detailed not only in the New Urban Agenda but also in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Right to the City reminds us of the importance of realizing the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda in the framework of human rights, to go beyond the economic logic which is currently leading the urbanization process and the underdevelopment of rural areas. It gives a common understanding and shared path for implementing these agendas.

**Territories and Rural-urban linkages in the Right to the City**

One of the components of the Right to the City is that of inclusive rural-urban linkages:

*A sustainable city/human settlement with inclusive rural-urban linkages that benefit poor people, both in rural and urban areas, and ensure food sovereignty; a city/human settlement that protects biodiversity, natural habitats, and surrounding ecosystems.*

This component is directly connected to at least **6 Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal Nº8**, **Goal Nº10**, and **Goal Nº13** being reviewed this year: "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all"; “Reduce Inequalities within and among countries”; and “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.”

It is therefore appropriate that we organize a side event on rural-urban linkages, the Right to Food and the Right to the City. This will give us an opportunity to assess the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals regarding rural-urban linkages, access to healthy and affordable food, and sustainability concerns related to urbanization.

**The Side Event**

We want to organize an event during the High-Level Political Forum, outside the United Nations Headquarters, directed towards Civil Society Organizations, UN Member States, Local and Regional governments, as well as local and international grassroots organizations, to jointly assess current trends and challenges for the implementation of the Right to the City regarding rural-urban linkages, in the context of territorial food systems for the Right to Food and Nutrition.

The Right to Food and Nutrition is a critical issue in the context of the Right to the City, as it addresses not only access to food, but also social inclusion, and the rights of those persons producing food and working within the territorial food system (i.e. agricultural workers, etc.), across rural and urban spaces. Realizing the Right to Food and Nutrition cannot be delinked from the realization of other ESC rights such as the Right to Housing, the Right to Health, Right to Decent Work, or Women’s Rights, among others. Realizing the Right to Food in the context also means creating accessible, participatory, and accountable policy spaces and policies which address the needs and, in many cases, the violations of rights, faced by many communities.

Sustainable food system policies at a local, territorial, or subnational level have an opportunity to address right to food and nutrition, create spaces for marginalized groups to participate in policy, and the design of normative policies that speak to the place-based reality of communities. Food systems in territories of all sizes include both formal and informal markets, layers of intermediary marketers, distributors and processors, as well as many small-scale producers, local processing, and agricultural and food system workers. These rural and urban food systems are still poorly understood by local or regional governments that often lack the mandate, jurisdiction or technical capacity to manage them. However, in order to address economic or environmental food system shocks and the systemic lack of access to fresh, healthy foods, a number of local governments have had to rethink how their food systems are managed—and more importantly, by whom. In turn, regional governments have sought to respond to the increased need for integrated territorial approaches that simultaneously address the continuum of urban, rural, and natural areas. Across the globe, more and more local and regional governments are paying attention to issues of food and nutrition as a result of increasing public health and nutrition pressures, and in response to the demands of social movements.

In order to foster participation and mutual learning, this event will provide a learning environment from those organizations, movements, and subnational governments with experiences in creating local and territorial food and nutrition policies. We will develop a participatory meeting methodology that combines interventions by expert speakers and small group discussions.

Our goal will be to develop a list of recommendations on how UN Member States, as well as Regional and Local governments can achieve rural-urban linkages in our cities, villages and urban settlements to meet commitments of the Right to Food and Nutrition and the Right to the City.