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# “For food, health and climate” – Global cities and governments launch ‘Glasgow Declaration’ ahead of COP26

*The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration targets healthy, low-carbon communities well beyond next year’s summit in Glasgow.*

**14 DEC 2020, GLASGOW** – With less than a year until the COP26 global climate summit in Glasgow, major cities, regions and governments from four continents will today join forces to launch an ambitious call to slash emissions – through sustainable food systems.

“There has been much talk about climate change, healthy diets and conditions faced by farm and food workers. But cities and regions have been taking action. In fact, subnational authorities have understood that sustainable and healthy food is the key to tackling these challenges,” said Olivier De Schutter, co-chair of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food).

“Through the Glasgow Declaration, these pioneers are committing to go even further,” he added.

De Schutter warned that global action on food systems is clearly falling short, with food and agriculture accounting for up to 37% of global greenhouse gas emissions, while more than 30% of the global population is obese or overweight, and 1 in 9 people are hungry or undernourished.

De Schutter added that the Glasgow Declaration will “ratchet up the pressure” on national governments throughout 2021, with the UN Food Systems Summit taking place only weeks before COP26.

Already, the Declaration has attracted interest from cities such as Milan (Italy), Paris (France), Quito (Ecuador), Barcelona (Spain), New Haven (United States), Surakarta (Indonesia) as well as Glasgow, and regions like India’s Andhra Pradesh.

With the Paris Agreement climate targets, rising inequalities in health and the economy worsened by the COVID pandemic, cities, regions and local authorities are increasingly attracted by sustainable and climate-friendly ways of producing and consuming food – especially with growing urban populations (according to the UN, more than 66% of the global population will live in urban areas by 2050).

For Pete Ritchie, executive director of Nourish Scotland, this means big opportunities for local action:

“Fixing the food system needs joined-up policies at all levels from global to local which deliver for climate change, biodiversity, equity, health, and waste; and which provide good livelihoods for food producers. Subnational governments – from small towns to cities, regions, states and countries like Scotland – have a big role in creating local solutions that work for their citizens, their geography, their producers and their culture.

“These include support for short food chains, sustainable agriculture, eating more vegetables, urban food growing, better food in the public kitchen, and projects that strengthen urban-rural linkages,” added the Nourish Scotland chief.

Scotland’s Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said: “It’s a great accolade to be the first government in the world to sign this new Declaration. Scotland was one of the first countries to declare a global climate emergency and to recognise the need to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss on a twin-crises basis.

“We are also leading in our approach to food policy. Scotland is committed to being a Good Food Nation where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day. We are developing a comprehensive food policy that works with the environment, with Ministers across key government portfolios working together to produce a national policy statement. I am delighted to have signed the Glasgow Declaration on behalf of the Scottish Government and hope others will follow our lead and sign up too.”

De Schutter, who is also the UN Special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, added:

“The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration will commit local authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from urban and regional food systems, but it will also send a clear, unambiguous message: to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, and the goals of the Paris Agreement, national governments must act on sustainable food systems. Our economies, our health, and the health of this planet depend on it. And local governments should not wait for national governments to move forward: they can take action immediately.”

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Read the draft **Glasgow Declaration**: [\[EN\]](#) [\[FR\]](#) [\[ES\]](#) | Read the **backgrounder**: [\[EN\]](#) [\[FR\]](#) [\[ES\]](#)

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*The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) is an independent, [expert panel](#) that works towards the transition to sustainable food systems worldwide.*

*Nourish Scotland is a [charity that focuses on food policy and practice](#). The organisation works for a fair, healthy and sustainable food system that truly values nature and people.*

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**Experts available for interview:**

English (EN), Français (FR)  <a href="#">Prof. Olivier De Schutter</a> Co-Chair, IPES-Food   UN Special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights	English (EN)  <a href="#">Mr Pete Ritchie</a> Executive Director, Nourish Scotland
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