

THEMATIC SESSION 1: Hungry citizens, cities and food resilience

Session organized by the City of Johannesburg

Date: 18 July 2013

Time: 14:30 – 16:00

Venue: Ballroom 3

PROGRAM

Opening:

Facilitator, **Prof. Alan Mabin**, University of the Witwatersand

Speakers:

- **Prof. Yao Yi**, Associate Professor, Guangzhou Academy of Social Sciences, Guangzhou
- **Yanine POC**, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Asia-Pacific Unit
- **Henk de Zeeuw**, Director, RUA Foundation
- **Francisco Menezes**, Director, Brazilian Institute for Social and Economic Analysis, Rio de Janeiro

Summary of key issues by facilitator

Panel discussion and questions from audience

SUMMARY

Rising food prices, food for fuel and climate change is driving food scarcity globally. Food demand is increasing yet our existing supply system is ill-equipped to cope with this demand. Globally, food prices have recently climbed to their highest levels since 2008. In the context of escalating world food imports (where these exceeded USD 1 trillion in 2010), dwindling natural water resource inputs, and global competition for foodstuffs the question can be asked how the world, and specifically cities, will face the future food crunch. Cities are at the coal face of the food crunch and the locations of the highest demand.

This session confronts one of the most pressing challenges facing cities. Hungry citizens and food resilience explores this challenge, asking experts to offer solutions.

BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

- How will cities feed their growing populations?
- How can cities adapt, innovate and become food resilient?