Arusha Food System Value Statement

Preamble
Arusha depends much, though not exclusively, on the food from outside the city and therefore infrastructures, markets, transportation and supply chains systems present major challenges to our food security. This presents challenges in ensuring safety and quality of food imports into the city, much of which is untraced and untested. Agriculture is the mainstay of the regional economy, contributing to more than 40% of regional GDP, and accounting for more than 75% of export earnings. Food production in the city also forms part of our food systems and presents numerous challenges, including protecting the land from urban encroachment, protecting the tenure of farmers, keeping wastes clear. Many actors are involved with piecemeal planning and implementation of food systems components. However, we wish to improve in order to develop a more coordinated, sustainable and resilient food systems. Our commitment among others is evidenced by the signing of the Milan Food Policy Pact (MFPP) by the City’s Lord Mayor Honourable Kalist Lazaro in 2014. This is an international protocol that calls for cities to develop sustainable food systems that grant healthy and accessible food to all, provide diverse diets and reduce food waste. The City Council, as part of her development projects, is carrying out activities that are geared to improving food systems, such as road construction and maintenance, and urban market construction/rehabilitation. We are also collaborating with various institutions and NGOs to improve the quality of food production within our boundaries and beyond. As part of our commitment, we acknowledge the importance of working with multiple actors towards a sustainable food system, and thus wish to build a shared vision, in coherence with the MFPP, for a Sustainable Arushan Food System to which all actors can contribute.

Values
Understanding the above, we collectively voice a desire for food systems that are:

- **Safe** – citizens in Arusha, no matter where they source their food, should confidently receive food safe from pesticide and chemical contamination.
- **Nourishing** – no citizen in Arusha should experience malnutrition in any form, least of all our children, who should receive appropriate first 1,000-day nutrition and quality food thereafter. Diverse, balanced diets should become familiar and expected features of our food system.
- **Economic** – food production and processing are opportunities for improved employment, particularly for our youth. Our regional food and cuisine should contribute to improved cultural tourism which celebrates the offerings of our city and country.
- **Inclusive** – our food system should ensure that all vulnerable populations, including the elderly, youth, sick, differently-abled, or unemployed, are supported to have access to good quality food.
- **Improved through partnering** – given the nature of our food system, which crosses multiple functional and political boundaries, we can only approach a sustainable food system by partnering with multiple actors across boundaries through a shared vision towards shared success.

These values must be approached with an orientation to protect and restore the **natural environment** in which our food system operates.

Commitment
We, the undersigned, commit to promoting a safe, nourishing, socially inclusive, economically flourishing food system, based on partnering with actors across administrative, sectoral and organisational boundaries.