

Opportunities, Capabilities and Support required to implement sustainable development within the context of regional and global commitments

Address by South Africa's Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Ms Zou Kota-Fredericks MP at the Meeting of the Political Bureau of the African Forum on Urban Safety

EThekwini, November 2017

Cllr Zandile Gumede, Chair of the African Forum on Urban Safety (AFUS) and Mayor of eThekwini Municipality;

Mr Alioune Badiane, Chairperson of the Advisory Council;

Ms Christine Musisi, Representative of UN-Habitat;

Mayors and fellow members of AFUS;

Ms Rose Molokoane, Co-chair of the World urban Campaign

Councillors;

Officials;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a great pleasure to be here with you today at the Second AFUS Learning Exchange in the vibrant city of Durban. Mayor Gumede, many sincere thanks to you and the team for so warmly hosting us once again.

Safety is a key concern of African governments at all levels and we have acknowledged that it has many dimensions which extend beyond the traditional

notions of policing. We know that we must link the development of sustainable human settlements with safety. In so doing we can create liveable cities for all, in which all its inhabitants feel safe. It is the “how” that we will deeply discuss over the next three days.

Excellent work has been undertaken over the past twenty years in promoting urban safety, including through research, pilot projects to identify good practice, and facilitating networks for knowledge exchange to inform global, regional, and national commitments that link human settlements development with safety.

Through our collective work, these ideas are now gaining traction nationally, regionally and globally. We are thus extremely pleased that safety is acknowledged in the outcome of Habitat III, the New Urban Agenda, which sets out the policies, practice, and roles and responsibilities of national, sub-national, local government, non-government actors and the community.

We have made significant progress since the first AFUS learning exchange in advancing urban safety as an important component of key international commitments and agreements. The Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its 26th Session took a specific resolution on urban safety, calling upon member states to consider urban safety as a key element of their urban development strategies.

The link between safety and human settlements and urbanisation is established no less than 16 times in the New Urban Agenda.

The Quito Declaration of the New Urban Agenda expresses a shared global vision as follows:

“We share a vision of cities for all, referring to the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements, to foster prosperity and quality of life for all...”

The most explicit guidance with regard to ensuring safety in cities and human settlements can be found in paragraph 103 of the Quito Implementation Plan:

Paragraph 103 states “We will integrate inclusive measures for urban safety, and crime and violence prevention, including terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, engaging relevant local communities and non-governmental actors, where appropriate, in developing urban strategies and initiatives, including taking into account slums and informal settlements, as well as vulnerability and cultural factors in the development of public security, and crime and violence prevention policies, including by preventing and countering the stigmatization of specific groups as posing inherently greater security threats”

This is what we have committed to globally. We now need to continue to work tirelessly to popularise these commitments through continued advocacy. We need to show practically how integrating safety into urban planning and human settlements development can effect positive change and give expression to a decent quality of life for all. We also require a practical work programme to address safety in human settlements and cities, particularly for women and girls and people in living vulnerable situations.

We would like to sincerely acknowledge the excellent work being undertaken by UN-Habitat in promoting urban safety in its work, and through facilitating networks such as AFUS to address the nexus between safety and human settlements, and to eThekweni Municipality for hosting and supporting the AFUS Secretariat.

Thank you.