

**Remarks by South Africa's Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Ms
Zou Kota-Fredericks, MP during WUF, AFUS-Durban Networking
Session**

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, 12 February 2018

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to engage you on the close relationship between human settlements and safety. Sustainable Development Goal 11 is very clear on this matter, when it demands that we strive for “*making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*”. South Africa has been one of the key advocates for the link between safety and human settlements and urban development, and we are very pleased that this link is established no less than 16 times in the New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III. The New Urban Agenda states that “We will integrate inclusive measures for urban safety and the prevention of crime and violence”.

Safety is key global concern, and African governments at all levels have acknowledged that it has many dimensions which extend beyond the traditional notions of policing.

We know what needs to be done to link the development of sustainable human settlements with safety. We have understood that integrating safety into urban planning and human settlements development results in a decent quality of life for all.

A lot of progress has been made 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.

We greatly appreciate 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.

As we take action now, at the regional and national and local level, to implement what we have committed to globally, we need to agree to work tirelessly to popularise these commitments through continued advocacy and collective action to achieve this desired state of development.

So we know what needs to be done, and we understand how it must be done, but 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. Through our collective work, these ideas will gain even more traction nationally, regionally and globally.

We commend the City of Ethekewini for leading knowledge exchange at national government, local government, and practitioner level for all of Africa through chairing the African Forum on Urban Safety, AFUS. Ethekewini also concretely makes the connection between improved human settlements and people feeling safe through approaches, programmes and projects you will hear about today.

Thank you.