



## CONCEPT NOTE



### **Human Settlements Development Summit 2017**

*Building our future today – ensuring liveable spaces for every family*

**20, 21 AND 22 SEPTEMBER 2017, BIRCHWOOD CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
14 View Point Road, Boksburg**

## CONCEPT NOTE

### **1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

The Minister of Human Settlements, in her 2017 Budget Vote speech, explained the link between human settlements and nation building in an emerging society. She said, “the provision of decent human settlements is an essential first step towards a solution to address most of our social ills. It is no longer only about a constitutional right, a Freedom Charter directive and the basis for dignity. It is now more than ever about the restoration of normalcy in society”. She explains further: “So this is what human settlements is about:

from cradle to the inevitable grave, every family must be settled in relative dignity, security, and access to opportunities that allow them to realise their full potential and the entire spectrum of that which would take us to a transformed society.” To achieve this normalcy in society requires a shift in attitude, thinking and action from the sector’s actors.

In this regard the Human Settlements MINMEC decided that a Summit should be held to critically assess the South African human settlements and urban development context and reflect on how we will work, collectively, to build our future today and ensure liveable spaces for every family.

In 2016, the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urbanisation (Habitat III) opened discussions on important urban challenges and questions, such as how to plan and manage cities, towns and villages for sustainable development in the context of rapid urbanisation, and after over two years of intensive preparations, adopted the New Urban Agenda. South African sector stakeholders under the National Forum on Human Settlements and Urban Development contributed very actively to shaping the New Urban Agenda, in line with the National Development Plan and the Integrated Urban Development Framework. These same stakeholders should now jointly develop a South African Implementation Framework that ensures that we tackle urbanisation as part of a continuum of urban – rural development, and acknowledges that human settlements development and urban management are intricately linked to the economic and social development of the country.

## **2. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SUMMIT FORMAT**

**Pre-Summit Programme:** On *20 September*, prior to the Summit, a series of site visits, seminars and workshops will take place, including:

Launch of the Association of Universities involved in Human Settlements Education

Journalism Academy

Workshop: Title Restoration, Tenure Security and Economy

Workshop: Upgrading Informal Settlements: Narrowing the gap from experimentation to implementation

Site and project visits (13h00 onwards)

**Summit programme:** On *21 September*, the Summit will open by reflecting to deepen our understanding of the context in which the challenge of human settlements development is and will be taking place, including lessons learned in our delivery since 1994, and to **set the scene and outline the material human settlements conditions**.

Once the scene has been set in the opening segment, it is proposed that the Summit break into thematic commissions, to present, exchange and debate proposals. In the commissions, the facilitators will ensure active engagement, in a workshop style, with a rapporteur capturing the proposals. These proposals will then be captured as a draft South African implementation plan for the New Urban Agenda to be presented back to plenary on *22 September*. The Commissions are arranged as follows:

**Commission 1:** *Scenarios for human settlements policy and programme choices*

**Commission 2:** *Spatial targeting, inter-governmental planning alignment and land use governance*

**Commission 3:** *Implementing South Africa's national urban policy and the New urban Agenda: towards integrated and sustainable urbanization*

**Commission 4:** *Up-scaling innovation and transformative technologies – building smart communities*

**Commission 5:** *Re-imagining finance for housing and human settlements development*

To provoke fresh thinking, the Summit, through **Commission 1**, will place a range of ideas on the table and debate **scenarios for human settlements policy and programme choices** in priority areas, such as upgrading informal settlements, incremental housing as a means of self and community empowerment, ensuring adequate supply of affordable rental in the context of migration realities.

To make the case for multi-actor approach to ensure human settlements development is a catalyst for spatial, economic and social structural transformation, the Summit, through **Commission 2**, will deliberate on **spatial targeting and inter-governmental planning alignment**, including the grant framework and intergovernmental relations framework required for this planning alignment.

To achieve commence the development of an Implementation Framework for the New Urban Agenda that complements the National Development Plan, the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF), and our human settlements policy, **Commission 3**, will engage on **Integrated Urban Development and implementing the New Urban Agenda**.

To harness innovation to fit the rapidly urbanising South African context and bridge technology gaps, the Summit, through **Commission 4**, will examine ways to **up-scale innovation and transformative technologies** to build smart communities for connectivity, mobility, resilience, economy and dignity.

To ensure that adequate financial resources are optimally utilised for the creation of liveable spaces and integrated human settlements, the Summit, through **Commission 5**, will engage on **re-imagining housing finance**, including making the case for human settlements investment, employer assisted housing, development finance, and access to finance by the end-user.

### **3. OBJECTIVES**

The Human Settlements Summit has the following objectives:

- ✓ To assess the trajectory of human settlements development in the context of new and shifting trends, including rapid urbanisation, demographic changes, economic performance, and access to urban land and basic services;

- ✓ To consolidate policy and programmes, by reflecting on lessons and outcomes of the mid-term review and the NDHS-DPME evaluations, understanding the implications of new policies, legislation and court rulings on all actors and partners
- ✓ To respond to competing human settlements needs and priorities, by thinking through the choices, trade-offs and non-negotiables;
- ✓ To test new ideas and refine current good practice;
- ✓ To evaluate and agree on improvements in how we organise ourselves to deliver on our goals i.e. the partnerships, IGR, and institutional arrangements which serve as our delivery mechanisms; and
- ✓ To mobilise social partners around emerging human settlements development pathways

#### **4. PREPARATION**

Thematic Discussion documents prepared for each of the Summit Themes outlined above will be availed to summit participants prior to the event as well as the perspectives submitted by invited though leaders and practitioners. Summit participants will also have access to detailed background documentation on the urban and human settlements environment. For example:

- a) the South African National Report for Habitat III provides a recent picture of the country's urban and human settlements context, with facts, figures and data on achievements and shortfalls.
- b) The Integrated Urban Development Framework provides the national urban policy framework the country seeks to implement.
- c) The Human Settlements Master Spatial Plan
- d) Synthesis of the recent surveys/ reports prepared by Statistics South Africa.

- e) Catalogue and guidelines for alternative building and construction technologies, materials and methods.
- f) Midterm review of Outcome 8 and the DPME Evaluation Report(s)
- g) Draft “Macro-Policy Framework for Human Settlements”

## **5. PARTICIPANTS**

Five hundred participants are expected to attend the Human Settlements Summit, including participants of the National Forum on Human Settlements and Urban Development. The National Forum serves as a tool for the steering of interdependent activities into a single place of negotiation and consultation, so that all of the activities in the wider sector co-produce outcomes broadly agreed upon, central of which will be more sustainable human settlements. The National Forum participants for example contributed very actively to shaping the New Urban Agenda through a cohesive South African position.

Participants in the National Forum include:

- a.* the Department of Human Settlements as convener and Chair,
- b.* the Department of Co-operative Governance,
- c.* All key national Departments
- d.* SALGA,
- e.* Provincial Departments of Human Settlements and Cooperative Governance,
- f.* The Portfolio and Select Committees of Parliament,
- g.* The South African Human Rights Commission,
- h.* Municipalities,
- i.* Academic Institutions and think tanks
- j.* Private Sector Organisations
- k.* Civil Society Organisations, and
- l.* Professional bodies

## **6. EXHIBITION**

Partners and private sector sponsors are invited to participate in the exhibition to highlight their contribution to “BUILDING OUR FUTURE TODAY – ENSURING LIVEABLE SPACES FOR EVERY FAMILY”.