



# Marang

International Relations Newsletter

11 Issue



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*Dear Readers,*

We've themed the current edition: "Reasserting Joburg's position in global networks".

Joburg met with the leadership of C40 to reaffirm the City's continued support to the C40 Climate Leadership Group.

Read about the City's involvement in the UCLG Annual Retreat and Campus in Barcelona.

The City attended the Urban 20 (U20) Sherpa Meeting, a diplomatic initiative designed to help cities develop a global policy for climate action, sustainable development, and socio-economic ramifications of social integration.

The 10th session of the UN-Habitat's World Urban Forum offered Johannesburg a platform to showcase its best practices for sustainable urbanisation in the Inner City, as undertaken by municipal owned entities such as the Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ), the Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA) and the Department of Public Safety.

The City collaborated with UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office in launching the Global Future Cities Programme meant to address key barriers to prosperity and economic growth. The programme focuses on urban planning, transportation and resilience, with big data and project finance as cross cutting themes.

You can also read about the City's hosting of a high-level delegation from Sweden, which stopped by Johannesburg to exchange knowledge in finance, provincial governments/ local authorities and share mutual experiences in strengthening public housing companies.

All this and more in the 11th edition of Marang, the City of Johannesburg's newsletter on international relations. Enjoy the read!

*We hope you enjoy the read!*



## Joburg meets with C40

Mayor Makhubo, together with MMC for Environment and Infrastructure Services Department, Councilor Mpho Moerane met with the C40 Regional Director for Africa, Mr Hastings Chikoko, to reaffirm the City's continued support to the C40 Climate Leadership Group.

C40 is a network of megacities taking action to address climate change. At this meeting, C40 announced that Joburg, together with Lagos have been nominated as a Tier 1 category city for support in 2020. Tier 1 cities are the most important cities considered strategically important to C40 climate diplomacy and to the region's economic development and its vulnerability to climate change and sustainability.

The City was also recognised as being amongst the top 3 cities in the African Region, together with Accra and Durban, for being the most active regionally and globally in the climate change space. The City's contribution is assessed based on the C40 participation standards, which confirmed that the City of Johannesburg achieved a performance score of 9 out of 9 in the mandatory standard category. This is a huge achievement for the City of Johannesburg.

In the meeting, the Executive Mayor further pledged to engage and strengthen the City's participation in C40 platforms for Joburg to regain recognition as a leading city in the green agenda.

Supported by the UK FCO and UN Habitat for the past two years, the City engaged on a Strategic Development Phase of the programme to assess the viability of proposed interventions, along with the levels of stakeholder engagement in order to validate its likely effectiveness in selected cities.

Two interventions emerged from Joburg, leading to the implementation phase of the programme. The two projects that the City is receiving technical assistance in are:

- **Soweto 'Triangle' Strategic Area Framework:**

The 'Planning' intervention is the development of a Strategic Area Framework (SAF) for Soweto that seeks to incorporate planning, transport and resilience considerations and develop specific tools to tackle intractable development challenges. The SAF will have the effect of policy and be employed by the City to, among other things, to make land use decisions and sequence its investment in core municipal infrastructure (social and engineering) for both the City and other investors. The key element is to incorporate Soweto residents as small time players in the

development space. This intervention is championed by the Department of Development Planning.

- **Fourth Industrial Revolution for Mobility:** The 'Transport' intervention focuses on the incorporation of new technologies in City transport policies. The City's transport strategy was compiled in 2013 and at the time of its approval, some of the advancements impacting urban mobility – such as e-hailing, autonomous vehicles, etc. were not in place, and thus not addressed in the strategy. This intervention will explore technological advancements and attempt to determine the most appropriate pathways for Johannesburg. On the basis of this, will be developed an implementation plan that details policy, regulatory and fiscal interventions that the City should pursue to realise the incorporation of '4IR' in the transport sector.

The two projects have just kicked-off and will be completed within two years.

## Joburg launches Future Cities Programme

The City has partnered with and is receiving technical assistance from the Global Future Cities Programme of the UK Government's Prosperity Fund, managed by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Global Future Cities Programme, which is part of a wider portfolio called the Prosperity Fund aims to support a range of strategic interventions in 19 cities across 10 countries (in South Africa, they have partnered with Joburg, Cape Town and eThekweni).

The programme seeks to address key barriers to prosperity focusing on; 1) urban planning, 2) transportation and 3) resilience, with big data and project finance as cross cutting themes.



## Joburg at the UCLG Annual Retreat and Campus 2020

The UCLG Annual Retreat is a week-long gathering that provides a platform for keynote speakers, organisations and partners to build synergies and develop actions in line with work plans set out by governing bodies.

The Annual Retreat offers participants an opportunity to boost networks among the different parts of the UCLG ecosystem, including the involvement of political leaders and technical staff, to reflect on priorities for the rest of the year.

Since its inception, the UCLG Annual Retreat has grown to be a global gathering of participants from peer cities eager to engage on issues of mutual interest.

It provides the City of Johannesburg with an opportunity to influence the UCLG Action Plan and identify partnerships with other cities. This enables the City to see its ideas included in the work plan for the year and its contributions help shape the upcoming Congress.

## Urban 20 (U20) calls for joint action in tackling global developments



The City attended the Urban 20 (U20) Sherpa Meeting, a diplomatic initiative by C40 Cities and UCLG designed to help cities develop a global policy for climate action, sustainable development, and socio-economic ramifications of social integration.

Johannesburg was invited to participate actively in the Urban 20 (U20) summit as part of a group of Core Cities that contribute to global policy developments. The meeting was hosted by the Royal Commission for the City of Riyadh, in Saudi Arabia.

U20 offers peer cities a platform to share their experiences and develop collective messages in a way that enriches G20 debates on global issues such as climate action, sustainable development and their socio-economic ramifications.

U20 aims to coordinate a joint policy position and a series of deliverables between Mayors of major G20 cities to inform and enrich the agenda to be discussed by national leaders at respective G20 Summits, with the 2020 iteration scheduled for Saudi Arabia in November 2020.

The Sherpa meeting is the initial step of a long-term process for cities to contribute to the G20 agenda, known as the U20, in the spirit of G20 engagement groups. The U20 initiative aims to foster dialogue between City networks and peer initiatives.

Other cities that attended were Buenos Aires, Berlin, Houston, Milan, Strasbourg, Mexico City, Jakarta, Tshwane, eThekweni,

Madrid, Barcelona, Moscow, Amman, Helsinki, Amsterdam, Montreal, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Rome, and Tokyo. UN Habitat, UCLG and C40 were partner networks to the event.

One of the outcomes of the meeting is that Johannesburg will participate in the Inclusive Prosperous Communities taskforce and contribute to the development of the position paper and policy briefs at a technical level. Johannesburg will also continue to contribute to the drafting of Communique for the forum.

The U20 Mayor's Summit will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 30 September 2020 to 2 October 2020.



## World Urban Forum thrashes out role of cities in delivering sustainable development



The 10th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) has thrashed out the crucial role of cities and towns in delivering sustainable development across the globe in the next decade.

Held in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, the event was themed: "Cities of Opportunities – Connecting Culture and Innovation".

Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ)'s presentation titled "Planning for and with Women and Girls" highlighted emerging insights from the work JCPZ, the Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA) and the Department of Public Safety have done in open public spaces in the inner-city.

In subsequent sessions hosted by the Future of Places, the Block by Block Foundation and the University of Columbia, JCPZ gave a presentation on its efforts to bridge the gap between knowledge and practice when it comes to public spaces.

To achieve this objective, JCPZ together with JDA, the Department of Public Safety, the University of Johannesburg and the University of Witwatersrand are developing a concept to build a centre that focuses on public spaces in African cities.

The initiative aims to create deeper understanding on how Africans view, use and attach meaning to public spaces. Partners that have shown interest in setting up the Centre include the UN-Habitat Global Public Space Programme, Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme of the

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Block by Block, ICLEI Local Government Sustainability, South African Cities Network (SACN) and the United Cities and Local Government Africa.

The Centre will encompass the following four working streams:



The above are in line with key issues or lessons learnt from the WUF10, including:

- Creating regional platforms for public space knowledge exchange and sharing of lessons, information dissemination as well as joint implementation between cities.
- Empowering local government institutions to play their developmental role.
- Working with civil society organisations, strengthening local government's advocacy capability in order to make a case and preserve public spaces
- Enhancing collaboration between academic institutions and local governments around research and public space project implementation.

The World Urban Forum (WUF) was established in 2001 by the United Nations to address one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanisation and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

Convened by UN-Habitat, the forum is a high level, open and inclusive platform for addressing challenges of sustainable urbanisation. It convenes every two years to connect the urban and development agenda of local and regional government.

## Sweden in Joburg for knowledge exchange



The City recently hosted a high-level delegation from Sweden, which stopped by Johannesburg to exchange knowledge in finance, provincial governments/local authorities and share mutual experiences in strengthening public housing companies.

The mission was held in association with the Embassy of Sweden and Ambassador Cecilia Julin, the Swedish



Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Kommuninvest Sweden and Public Housing Sweden. The meeting was also attended by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

The delegation was welcomed by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Geoff Makhubo.

## Message of support from Joburg: Covid-19

The City of Johannesburg would like to express its support to peer cities during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) which has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The virus has spread to many countries and cities. While COVID-19 continues to spread, it is important that cities take action to prevent further transmission, reduce the impacts of the outbreak and support control measures.

The protection of children, the elderly and vulnerable is

particularly important. However, care must also be taken to avoid stigmatising of those who may have been exposed to the virus. COVID-19 does not differentiate among borders, ethnicities, disability status, age or gender.

As the City of Johannesburg, we have taken measures to prevent the entry and spread of COVID-19 in our City, while minimizing disruption on the City's economy. We are available to share our experience with other cities in fighting Covid-19.



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