



# ***MARANG***

***AN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS NEWSLETTER***

***EDITION 19***

***THEME: "JOHANNESBURG'S CONVERSATIONS WITH  
INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS"***

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***Dear Marang Readers,***

It gives us great pleasure to bring to you Marang Edition 19, which is themed: ***“Johannesburg’s conversations with international stakeholders.”***

The City of Johannesburg welcomed the Multi-Party Government (MPG) in November 2021 after the local government elections. The MPG is a City coalition government led by the Democratic Alliance, under the leadership of Executive Mayor, Dr Mpho Phalatse.

This Multi-Party Government invested time and energy into the consideration of Mayoral Priorities for the rest of the mayoral term, which is termed, “A Golden Start.”

In the ‘Golden Start’, the City aims to address key areas that need fixing, while aiming to achieve other important goals in order to get the basics of service delivery right. These fundamentals will be underpinned by the following Mayoral Priorities:

- A city that gets the basics rights
- A safe and secure city
- A caring city
- A business-friendly city
- An inclusive city
- A well-run city
- A smart city

In cementing the Mayoral Priorities in the agenda of international stakeholders, the City of Johannesburg held both physical and virtual meetings. This Edition covers the Executive Mayor’s meetings with the leadership of Metropolis, United Cities Local Government (UCLG) and Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) to reaffirm the City’s continued support to the Global Networks.

Furthermore, this Edition covers the Courtesy Calls of the City’s affirmation for collaboration with international stakeholders through meetings with the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Portugal, Ghana, the United States of America, Korea, Birmingham and the United Kingdom.

You can also read about the City’s hosting of the latest International Relations Roundtable Dialogue, focusing on Helping African Cities unlock green funding.

***Please enjoy the read!***

## Courtesy Calls:

***Executive Mayor, Dr Mpho Phalatse holds bilateral courtesy calls with various countries: The Federal Republic of Germany, Portugal, Ghana, Korea, India, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom, as well as a virtual meeting with Cllr Ian Ward of the City of Birmingham, March 2022:***

The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Dr Mpho Phalatse held Courtesy Calls which served as a demonstration of the City's affirmation for collaboration with international stakeholders through meetings with the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of India, Portugal, Ghana, the United States of America, Korea, United Kingdom and Birmingham. The meetings allowed various Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consul Generals an opportunity for one-on-one engagements with the Executive Mayor since she assumed her position.

The Executive Mayor used the engagements as an opportunity to affirm Johannesburg's commitment to work closely with various countries through accessing available technical and financial instruments to upgrade Johannesburg.

### **Executive Mayor, Dr Mpho Phalatse with Consul General of Portugal, Consul General Graça Araújo Fonseca**



- The Portuguese Consulate is ready to explore collaboration in culture, heritage and tourism with the City of Johannesburg.

**Executive Mayor, Dr Mpho Phalatse, with His Excellency, Ambassador Peschke of the Federal Republic of Germany**



- Germany has expressed an interest to cooperate with the City in water and waste technical and financial projects

**Executive Mayor, Dr Mpho Phalatse, with His Excellency, Ambassador of Ghana, Mr Charles Asuako Owiredu**



- Ghana would like the City to facilitate business-to-business engagements to strengthen trade relations with Johannesburg



**Executive Mayor, Dr Mpho Phalatse with His Excellency, Ambassador of Korea, H.E. Ambassador Chull-joo Park**



- Korea would like to engage Joburg Tourism and the Apartheid Museum on the possible inclusion of the Korean language in guidebooks in order to encourage Korean tourists to include Johannesburg on their travel itineraries

**Executive Mayor, Dr Mpho Phalatse, with Consul General of the United States of America, Mr Vincent Spera**



- The US Consulate would like to focus on economic development, trade, as well as people-to-people programmes in its engagement with the City of Johannesburg

**Executive Mayor, Dr Mpho Phalatse, with Consul General of India, Consul General Anju Ranjan**



- The City is host to over 115 Indian firms in various sectors (automotive, banking, agriculture and other infrastructure). The City's cultural tapestry encompasses a rich Indian heritage through cuisine spaces. India is keen to collaborate with the City in BRICS initiatives geared at bettering municipalities

***Johannesburg holds virtual meetings with the leadership of Global Networks - Metropolis, UCLG, and FMDV, March 2022***

The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg hit the ground running in global platforms in February 2022. She held virtual meetings which served in asserting the City's commitment to active participation in FMDV, UCLG and Metropolis. The Executive Mayor also participated in the C40 Steering Committee Meeting in February 2022. This was her maiden appearance as the C40 Steering Committee Deputy Chairperson for Africa. This engagement was followed by her participation in the FMDV Board meeting in March 2022, where she introduced herself and also took the opportunity to highlight the state of Johannesburg, as well the strategic areas where the City can benefit from technical and financial assistance from global stakeholders.



**Emilia Saiz Carracedo:**  
Secretary General of UCLG



**Jean-François Habeau:**  
Executive Director of the Global Fund  
for Cities Development (FMDV)



**Octavi de la Varga Mas**  
Secretary General of Metropolis



***The City of Johannesburg hosts an International Relations roundtable on “Helping African Cities unlock green funding - A conversation with FMDV, DBSA, and the World Bank, February 2022”***

In acknowledging that Cities are the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions, it is key to note that they occupy only 2% of the world’s land area, while accounting for over 70% of emissions (the World Bank, 2022). Africa is becoming more urbanized, with younger populations increasingly moving from rural areas to cities to find work. As cities grow, new settlements are often built on land that is particularly vulnerable to climate risks, increasing the need for urban areas to be better adapted to climate change.

The City of Johannesburg’s IR roundtable acknowledged that Africa’s future will depend on the success of its cities. It further explored the role of different stakeholders from African Cities in supporting green initiatives through knowledge sharing and capacity building. The 95 stakeholders that attended got the opportunity to listen to how they can access financial support from both local and global stakeholders that can play a critical financing role in the establishment of Green Funds for African Cities. FMDV, the DBSA, and the World Bank showcased their technical assistance, as well as financing modalities, while FMDV presented on how Cities can establish their own climate funds.

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