



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG  
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY



Proud co-host of the 2025 U20 and host city for G20 South Africa



## Private Office of the Executive Mayor Cllr. Dada Morero

**14 September 14h00**

### **Closing session and handover ceremony**

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished UN Representatives, Esteemed Mayors, Sherpas, and Delegates,

As we come to the close of this historic Urban 20 Summit, I want to thank each of you for your energy, your ideas, and your leadership over these past days.

Johannesburg has always been a city of bold solutions, of courage in the face of challenges. And what we have witnessed here is precisely that spirit: cities coming together—not as bystanders to global challenges, but as drivers of real, practical change.

The U20 Communiqué we have developed is more than words on a page. It is our collective voice. It is a statement that cities are not waiting for permission—we are partners, innovators, and essential actors in shaping a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future. The Communiqué carries the weight of our shared experience, our ideas, and our commitment to leave no city, no community, behind.

From our discussions, three key messages stand out—three lessons I urge you to carry forward:

**First, finance is the foundation of action.** The Communiqué calls for concrete steps to ensure cities have the resources they need to deliver for and protect their residents, and to accelerate action on the world's most pressing challenges. This includes:

- Unlocking predictable, affordable, and needs-based direct funding, concessional borrowing, and financing lines for cities—working with Development Finance Institutions and multilateral funds.
- Expanding dedicated programmes for cities to deliver public services and housing that is safe, affordable, accessible, energy-efficient, and resilient, while strengthening multilevel governance and cities' capacities enhance community belonging and build resilience.
- Delivering a city-inclusive just transition finance model as part of G20 outcomes, accelerating people-centred urban just transitions, creating decent local jobs, reducing inequalities, and fostering green and inclusive growth.

**Second, collaboration is our superpower.** When cities work together—across networks, with national governments, and through regional and international partners—we can turn fragmented initiatives into large-scale solutions, from climate-resilient infrastructure to inclusive social programs. This collaboration is anchored in our shared commitment to multilateralism, democracy, solidarity, and the rule of law—the very foundations for sustainable peace and global stability. By standing together in these principles, U20 cities show that our collective action is enduring.



a world class African city



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**Third, people are at the heart of everything we do.** The Communiqué reminds us that every policy, every investment, and every programme must improve the lives of residents—especially those most vulnerable. Affordable housing, social protection, care systems, green jobs, climate sustainable development, digital transformation and social inclusion are not optional; they are essential for a just and thriving urban future.

Colleagues, the message is clear: cities are not passive implementers of global decisions. We are co-creators, innovators, and partners. The U20 Communiqué is our call to action—a demand that the G20 recognize the indispensable role of cities, provide the resources we need, and work with us to turn ambition into outcomes that matter.

Let us leave Johannesburg inspired, united, and determined. Carry these three messages back to your cities: **finance that delivers, collaboration that multiplies impact, and people at the centre of all we do.**

Together, we have shown that cities can lead the way in reimagining global change. Let us ensure that the Communiqué we have forged here becomes the blueprint for action at the G20—and beyond.

**Thank you.**

