



## **Closing Remarks by Cllr ZRT Gumede at AFUS Political Bureau**

**05 April 2017**

**Moses Mabhida Stadium**

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Programme Director,

Organised local government bodies represented;

Mayors and Councillors Present

- Mayor Paulin Danho from Cote de Voire, Co-Chair of Global Network for Safer Cities;
- Secretary General of the City of Marrakech, Mr Abdelkrim Khatib

UN Habitat Officials

UNESCO representative

African Union representative

United Cities and Local Government – Africa representatives

European Forum for Urban Safety Director General, Ms Elizabeth Johnston

The Urban Think Tank-Africa representatives,

Councillors present;

Government officials,

Academia,

Distinguished guests;

Members of the media;

All protocol observed.

Firstly let me take this opportunity and welcome the members of the media who have decided to grace this occasion. They are an important part of society especially when they inform the public about plans and programmes we have.

I would like to thank our organisers and Advisor council for making the past three days gathering a success. We are really proud of your work and that of our partners.

This session was important for us because it came after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets in 2015 and New Urban Agenda in October 2016 in Quito.

The UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The New Urban Agenda (NUA) highlights the importance of active participation of all stakeholders to develop and implement agreed strategies to address urban safety, crime, violence and terrorism. This requires an effective, integration, coordination and implementation of initiatives aimed at advancing safety for all.

We have successfully established the new AFUS Advisory Council which will provide strategic guidance to the leadership of AFUS to strengthen the role of cities and local authorities in addressing crime and violence.

I am also glad that we have created a space through the Urban Thinkers Campus, for strategic partners, including eThekweni Municipality, academia, civil society and practitioners, to consolidate, review and strengthen urban safety policy, strategies and practices of the Municipality.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we deal with service delivery issues to improve the lives of our people, we must on the other hand, ensure that our communities are safe. Without a doubt the common threat to service provision is crime. Crime is a bigger threat to the notion of safe cities than any other

challenge. As we promote the concept of safer cities on our continent, collaboration and dialogue is key.

African cities and cities of the world are going through heightened quest for safety and security. We all know of many instances where cities lose investors who cite crime in the form of terror attack threats, violence and so-called petty crime as the reason for losing appetite to invest.

Fear of crime does not only affect economic development but it also prevents the marginalised from enjoying the services that we provide as local government or as government and private sector.

The post 2015 sustainable development agenda present us with an opportunity to review, consolidate and strengthen our urban safety and crime prevention strategies within the context of two decades on Safer Cities implementation in our Continent.

EThekweni Municipality has demonstrated illustrative example in the mainstreaming of Safer Cities programme and has also welcome the opportunity to learn from all other cities within the continent and abroad.

We are committed in taking all our discussions and resolutions further to another level. We must go to all spheres of influence and contribute by using the outcomes of this gathering.

- We must continue to consolidate, develop and promote the exchange of experiences between African cities/towns, and building a distinct community of practice,

- We must develop and improve our tools for the implementation of urban crime prevention and safety policies and initiatives, preventing crime, violence and insecurity;

-We must develop exchange and collaboration mechanisms between the various municipal safer cities coordinating teams across the continent of Africa.

- We must have a regional position and capacity for local government involvement in the global and regional initiatives on crime prevention, peace building and governance.

In closing, again I would like to thank you for coming and gracing this occasion.

I would like to also thank all the partners for assisting in setting the agenda for AFUS. Having support of the UN Habitat, European Union, South African Cities Network, Government and its association means a lot to us.

This means that our work will gain impetus on relevant international platforms. We must continue to share knowledge and experience with one another, the exchange between big and small cities is essential.

I thank you !!!