

EXECUTIVE MAYOR PARKS TAU
OPENING CEREMONY WELCOME ADDRESS
17 JULY 2013 9am
HILTON HOTEL

The conference theme of ‘caring cities’ is a call “to hear” and “to see” those beyond immediate borders, to form relationships between groups and ideas not often connected, and to cross wide divides of dissent and disagreement. To quote Professor David Harvey: *“The question of what kind of city we want cannot be divorced from the question of what kind of people we want to be, what kinds of social relations we seek, what relations to nature we cherish, what style of daily life we desire, what kinds of technologies we deem appropriate, what aesthetic values we hold.”*

We come together at this, the 11th Metropolis Annual Meeting held for the first time on the African continent themed as Caring Cities – as an attempt develop, enhance and sustain relationships for the collective betterment of our cities.

Acting President of Metropolis, Mayor of Berlin, Mr Michael Muller;
Minister of National Planning, Mr Trevor Manuel
Premier of the Province of Gauteng, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane
Deputy Executive Director: UN Habitat Aisa Kirabo Kacyira
Members of the Executive Committee (MECs)

The Secretary General of Metropolis, Mr Alain Le Saux
Mayors, Governors and Councillors of the world's most important
global cities;
Your Excellencies; Ambassadors and High Commissioners
Members of the Mayoral Committee
Members of the Board of Directors of Metropolis
Metropolis delegates
The City's leadership
Members of the media
Distinguished guests

On behalf of the City of Johannesburg, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to this important occasion. Johannesburg, as South Africa's premier City places a very high premium on cultivating and deepening its relationship with other cities and networks. Johannesburg is a cosmopolitan metropolis, a magnet for people from all over the world, seeking an opportunity to improve their lives. We are honored that you have taken time to come to our city and we thank you for your participation and contribution to this event.

The theme of this conference is 'Caring Cities.' We can say that cities that are able to provide citizens with what is necessary for health, welfare, maintenance and protection may be regarded as caring cities. It is worth noting that the ability to care is about the capacity to act and take responsibility. Action and responsibility are intertwined. To care means extending a helping hand but it also means that citizens and cities are tied

together mutually bound by responsibility, accountability, enforceability and action.

Caring cities are:

1. Cities that present a high quality of life to all its citizens
2. Cities that display a sense of humanity and sharing
3. Cities that provide comfort and dignity for all its citizens
4. Cities that offer solutions that are communally responsive

This Metropolis Annual Meeting is a unique opportunity to establish and exchange contacts with various thinkers, thought leaders and experts on issues of urban relevance, represented by over 42 countries and 78 cities. The themes that will be discussed are also close to the hearts of many in the developing world, with an agenda that captures the imagination of cities that are tasked with becoming developmental as they progress. Issues such as resource and food resilience, social cohesion, smart/agile cities, informality and citizen engagement are some of the topics that will be highlighted during the conference. There will also be broader issues around housing and innovation as well as progress on key Metropolis initiatives being presented.

Tomorrow marks the 95th birthday of our former President Nelson Mandela. In keeping with the significance of Mandela Day, it is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better, and in doing so build a global movement for good. Ultimately it seeks to empower communities everywhere. It begins with each one of us giving a little bit. While former President Mandela devoted 67 years to social and political activism, he

only asks for 67 minutes of your day to make a difference in someone else's life, spreading ubuntu, selflessness and love. Ubuntu is an African philosophy centered on the oneness of humanity, thus encouraging respect for diversity, promoting dignity, peace, good health and prosperity. It is therefore not limited to one day.

Indeed, this year's theme of Caring Cities is underpinned by this profound philosophy.

Within the dialogue of relationship building and working together, the tone has been set for this Metropolis Annual Meeting to commence with fervent debate, discussion and discourse.

It gives me great pleasure to declare the 11th Metropolis Annual Meeting open!

PAUSE

INTERLUDE -PRAISE FOR AFRICA

SPEAKER PROFILES

Today's proceedings will commence with an address by the Gauteng Premier, Nomvula Mokonyane, followed by the Acting President of Metropolis, Mayor of Berlin Michael Muller and Aisa Kirabo Kacrya the Deputy Executive of UN Habitat. The Key note address will be by the National Minister in the Presidency, National Planning Commission Mr. Trevor Manual.

Nomvula Mokonyane

Gauteng Premier

Ms. Mokonyane has served in a number of leadership positions in the ANC and its Alliance structures, including being a member of the Central Committee of the SA Communist Party; Executive Committee Member of the ANC Women's League and National Executive Committee member of the ANC. Mokonyane served in the Gauteng Legislature from 1994 in various portfolio committees before she was appointed MEC of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment in 1996. She became MEC for Safety and Liaison from 1999 to 2004, and was appointed Housing MEC between 2004 and 2009.

She received training in Local Government and Planning Management and Community Development in Sweden. She completed a certificate course in Emerging Economics at the Wharton Business School at Pennsylvania

University, and studied leadership and governance at Harvard University in the USA.

Mokonyane firmly believes in collective leadership and teamwork, which accords with the ANC's 2009 election slogan: "Working together, we can do more".

Michael Müller

Since November 2011 Mr Michael Müller is the Mayor of Berlin and the Senator for Urban Development and the Environment. Within the Metropolis network he is representing the Governing Mayor of the city state of Berlin, Mr Klaus Wowereit. Mr Müller is the Metropolis Regional Vice President Europe, and the president of the Berlin initiative „Integrated Urban Governance – Successful Policy Transfer“.

Born 1964 in Berlin, he visited the Technical College for Business and Administration and worked as self-employed printer until 2011.

In 1981 Mr Müller started his political career in the Social Democratic Party (SPD). Between 2001-2011 he was the Chairman of the SPD parliamentary group in the Berlin House of Representatives, and 2004-2012 the chairman of the SPD in the federal state of Berlin.

Aisa Kirabo Kacyira

Deputy Executive Director - UN-HABITAT

Former Mayor of Kigali, Ms. Kirabo is currently the Governor of Eastern Province, the largest province in Rwanda with a population of 2.5 million. Prior to her position as Mayor, Ms. Kirabo was an Elected Member of Parliament (and member of Parliamentary Standing Committee in charge of land use and management, settlement and environment), and she actively participated in the legislative and over-sight functions of parliament in addition to community mobilization. Ms. Kirabo was educated at James Cook University, Australia, where she gained her Masters in Veterinary Science in Animal Production and Economics and at Makerere University, Uganda, where she gained her Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine. She is currently pursuing an MBA in the School of Finance and Banking, Rwanda/Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands.

Mr Trevor Andrew Manuel, MP

Mr Manuel has served as a minister in the South African government for the past 18 years, 13 of them as Finance Minister. His first portfolio was under President Nelson Mandela as Minister of Trade and Industry. He is currently Minister in the Presidency: National Planning Commission.

Prior to serving in South Africa's first democratic government, Mr Manuel headed the Department of Economic Planning. He has served as a member of the National Executive Committee of the African National

Congress since his first election in 1991 and subsequent re-election in 1994, 1997, 2002 and 2007.

Mr Manuel has served in various senior capacities for a number of national and international bodies. He was Governor of the Boards of the African Development Bank Group as well as the Development Bank of Southern Africa. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund, as Chair of the Development Committee of the World Bank and has chaired G-20 meetings.

Mr Manuel was appointed as Special Envoy to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on financing for development in 2002 and in 2008. He also served as a commissioner in the International Task Force on Global Public Goods and on the Commission for Africa. More recently he was appointed by the UN Secretary General to the High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Finance.