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**SPEAKER'S NOTES FOR CLR MPHOTO PARKS TAU, EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF
JOHANNESBURG AT COCKTAIL MEETING WITH BUSINESS SECTOR**

Monday, 02 December 2013

Programme Director

Today we meet as a build up towards a very important event taking place in Johannesburg in February 2014. We thought it wise to share the relevance and importance of this event with yourselves, because we consider Business as critical to the subject matter of Climate Change. Your own commitments under the auspices of the NBI , tells us that you all relate to Climate Change. This event, then, will assist to test your appetite for collaboration and possible partnerships.

The City of Johannesburg will be hosting the 5th biennial C40 Cities Mayors Summit at the Sandton Convention Centre from the 4th to the 6th February 2014. This historic event, the first of its kind in the African continent, brings together C40 Mayors from around the world, who will advance urban solutions to global climate change through individual efforts as well as international engagement and collaboration. The concept of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group is built on the premise of Cities fostering partnerships with one and another, in order to achieve meaningful reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks. A principle of working together to create and build partnerships is crucial to the success of achieving the City's strategic agenda, including matters relating to resource sustainability.

1. CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

Among those attending will be city delegates, business people, environmentalists, activists and community representatives, who will deliberate on the progress being made by Cities, and also suggest meaningful interventions that can be jointly undertaken to address issues of the environment.

Hosting the event is a clear recognition of the growing role that Johannesburg and the African continent plays to find solutions on the most pressing issues facing our globe.

Climate change is not an issue that affects only the industrialised countries of the northern hemisphere. It is an everyday reality for the people of Africa in rapidly expanding cities, as well as rural areas faced by the consequences of dramatic changes in weather patterns. This in turn threatens crops and

livestock as well as their ability to survive. Johannesburg is currently one of four C40 cities in Africa that include Addis Ababa, Cairo and Lagos.

The Summit also marks the release of the **Climate Action in Megacities 2.0 Report**, the most comprehensive research to date, based on the 56 participating “mega-cities”. This report, and the Summit as a whole, will demonstrate the measurable action and progress that C40 cities have made individually and collectively, to reduce carbon emissions and climate risks. I am proud to mention that the City of Johannesburg features in the top ten out of a total of 56 Cities. The City was nominated as one of four finalists in the Adaptation and Resilience category at the inaugural C40 Siemens Leadership Awards recently held in London.

C40 Cities will collectively continue to show the world that Cities and Mayors are solutions-oriented, seek measurable climate action, and remain firmly committed to leading the way in climate activities.

2. SUMMIT THEME

The theme for the Summit is **“towards resilient & liveable megacities: demonstrating action, impact & opportunity”**.

The rationale behind the theme is, firstly to incorporate both adaptation and mitigation. In previous C40 summits adaptation issues were afforded less attention and given that this summit is happening on African soil - an area known to be highly vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change. Secondly, it resonates with the imperatives of the GDS 2040, i.e., building a sustainable, liveable and resilient city.

Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to climate change and climate variability, a situation aggravated by the interaction of ‘multiple stresses’,

occurring at various levels, and low adaptive capacity (high confidence). Africa's major economic sectors are vulnerable to current climate sensitivity, with huge economic impacts, and this vulnerability is exacerbated by existing developmental challenges such as endemic poverty, complex governance and institutional dimensions; limited access to capital, including markets, infrastructure and technology; ecosystem degradation; and complex disasters and conflicts. These, in turn, have contributed to Africa's weak adaptive capacity, increasing the continent's vulnerability to projected climate change.

Even if emissions are stabilized relatively soon, climate change and its effects will last many years, and **adaptation** will be necessary. Climate change adaptation is especially important in developing cities since those cities are predicted to bear the brunt of the effects of climate change. That is, the capacity and potential for humans to adapt (called adaptive capacity), is unevenly distributed across different regions and populations, and developing cities generally have less capacity to adapt. The adaptation challenge grows with the magnitude and the rate of climate change. Therefore, accounting for and adapting to potential effects of climate change in the water sector, among others, are imperative — indeed, non-consideration of potential effects of climate change and adaptation on the city's water sector, should be viewed as an act of omission.

The Johannesburg C40 Summit is underpinned by four plenary sessions:

- i. **Adaptable and resilient cities** – This plenary will highlight the growing focus of C40 Cities globally on climate adaptation and urban resilience. This will be an opportunity to highlight the long-standing work of the Connecting Delta Cities Network as well as some of the new thought-leadership related to the development of a climate risk assessment framework.
- ii. **Building liveable cities** – This plenary will highlight the growing focus of cities globally on building liveable and sustainable communities – both as it relates to new development and existing infrastructure
- iii. **Socio-Economic Development** – This plenary will explore the variety of economic development priorities of C40 Cities, highlighting the kinds of tangible action and leadership Cities have shown to date. This session specifically will attempt to expose the other Cities to our own socio-

economic issues and how developing cities can work together to develop policies and programmes that address poverty, unemployment and inequality.

- iv. **Megacity Climate Leadership** – it will focus on current and future opportunity for C40 Cities to achieve climate action. The session will demonstrate how C40 Mayors are solutions-oriented, seek measurable climate action, and remain firmly committed to leading the way in climate action

The City's agenda is to demonstrate the City's approach to adaptation, a topic very relevant to the climatic conditions of Africa. In addition, the City will also focus on its ability to undertake GHG measurement and reporting, an area which many Cities grapple with. It is heartening to know that almost 80% of South Africa's top 100 companies disclose their emissions. This is an area that the City also wants to improve upon. Johannesburg is therefore fortunate to be partnering with the C40 Leadership Group and ICLEI on a project to establish the Global Protocol for Community-scale Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (GPC framework) for use in the City. This is the same protocol that the NBI membership subscribes to. It is an international recognised measurement framework that will enable the City of Johannesburg to disclose its carbon footprint more accurately while being recognised internally.

3. JOHANNESBURG'S STRATEGIC AGENDA

As we have realised the importance of working together and to build partnerships between Cities, we have also come to realise how important it is to engage with Business and to share the City's strategic agenda, in order to develop partnerships. Without such partnerships, we are bound to fail or to take twice as long to achieve some of the outcomes we aspire to.

You as Business, played an instrumental role in helping us to develop our Growth and Development Strategy (GDS) towards 2040. It is an aspirational strategy that defines the type of society the city aspires to achieve, by 2040.

In developing the GDS 2040 we acknowledged an ever increasing complexity of challenges such as:

- Increasing migration
- Globalisation
- Climate change
- Natural resource scarcity
- Technological innovation;

to mention but a view.

We also acknowledge our own unique South African circumstances where poverty, unemployment especially amongst the youth and growing inequality is our biggest challenge.

Our City's GDS 2040 is built on four outcomes namely:

Outcome 1: Improved quality of life and development-driven resilience for all;

Outcome 2: Provide a resilient, liveable, sustainable urban environment – underpinned by infrastructure supportive of a low-carbon economy;

Outcome 3: An inclusive, job-intensive, resilient and competitive economy that harnesses the potential of citizens;

Outcome 4: A high performing metropolitan government that pro-actively contributes to and builds a sustainable, socially inclusive, locally integrated and globally competitive Gauteng City Region;

The four outcomes, the pillars of the strategy, aims to ensure sustainability, resilience and liveability.

In view of the above, the City has identified, and is busy implementing, ten City-wide priorities which attempt to make the outcomes of the 2040 GDS a reality. These priorities include:

- Financial Sustainability and Resilience;
- Agriculture and Food Security;
- Sustainable Human Settlements where the focus is on Corridors of Freedom;
- SMME and Entrepreneurial Support where the focus is on the Developmental Service Delivery Model;
- Engaged Active Citizenry;
- Resource Sustainability;
- Smart City;
- Investment Attraction, Retention and Expansion;
- Green Economy; and
- Safer Cities.

These ten priorities provide for a strong link between quality of life and how the City can draw on and manage the natural resources available to them.

Climate change (and the depleting natural resources) is strongly on the City's 2040 GDS. Currently, over half of the world's population resides in cities. This urbanization trend is expected to continue, and more than 80 percent of people are expected to live in cities by 2050.¹ The South African population is approximately 50% urbanised. This implies that our cities will have to double

¹ Sustainable, resource efficient cities
– Making it Happen! UNEP, 2012

up in the next 40 years. It also implies that the infrastructure required to accommodate the future population must still be constructed. That, in itself, is an opportunity to be more resilient and sustainable. The future conditions for city dwellers depend not only on how urbanization is planned and managed, but also on how cities source, process, and use resources. Choices made by the cities have far reaching implications on the level of sustainability possible in the future.

Cities drive economic growth, the consumption of materials and energy, the production of waste, and the emission of greenhouse gases. Johannesburg's GDS vision is explicit in its intent. It says we aim to create a "city that provides sustainability...a resilient and adaptive society". This implies that we need to be serious about conserving the City's natural resources, reducing climate change, and bringing about the kind of green economy to create jobs and alleviate poverty.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE

The City has adopted a Climate Change Strategy in 2008 with policy objectives to minimize the causes of climate and to adapt to changing climatic conditions.

In recent years, the people of Johannesburg have come to realize that climate change is real. We have witnessed increased intensity in rain and an increase in the rainy season in Johannesburg over the past decade. as a result, there has been increased flash floods, and of course, the incapacity of our storm water system to attenuate the levels of storm water. The solution requires not only increased public investment, but also a consciousness amongst the people of Johannesburg to realize that we need to intervene through adaptation and mitigation, and to look at measures of how we adapt at a household level. This

will include looking at ways how we adapt in the municipal environment, and how we invest in infrastructure.

Key priorities of the C40 Programme and which is also relevant to the City's 2040 GDS include the following:

- Tracking and reduction of GHG emissions; and measurements and verification for all sectors;
- Risk assessment and reduction;
- Facilitation and identification of low carbon projects with potential for carbon revenue,
- Developing (strengthening) policies and bylaws that promote resilience to climate change and conduct strategic research to enhance the cities resilience and sustainability.
- Enhanced Energy Efficiency and the use of alternatives such as renewable resources;
- Implementation of initiatives that will contribute to the growth of the green economy;
- Mainstreaming of climate change issues in the City's IDP and programmes;
- Adaptation to the impacts of climate change in the city, this will include measures the promotion of environmentally friendly and sustainable travel and transportation, water resource management, minimization of waste generation, management and disposal, building management, flood risk and storm water management, disaster risk reduction, improvement of the climate resilience, green procurement of goods and services, and heighten public awareness.
- Partnerships with our communities and with business.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

As big cities of the world, we have a responsibility to provide **leadership** and to share our experiences, best practice and capacity for innovation with the rest of the globe. We take action on this front because of our shared conviction that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. In the end, we are measured not by how much we undertake, but by what we finally accomplish.

I therefore invite Business, **to participate in our Business Seminar** on 20 January 2014, where we will discuss opportunities where Business wants to partner/co-operate with the City, to jointly address issues that will reduce GHG emissions, to share knowledge and information on the topic and to share responsibility towards environmental sustainability and resilience. We also intend creating an opportunity for Business to showcase specific Case Studies that demonstrate Business's understanding and commitment towards Climate Change.

We are looking forward to your views on opportunities **to stimulate the green economy** in Johannesburg and to discuss with you our thoughts on **creating job opportunities for the unemployed** in the city through the Developmental Service Delivery model, based on the premise of co-production.

There has been enough talking, let's have a dialogue!