



Urban 20 Mayoral Summit | City of Johannesburg

Friday 12 September - Sunday 14 September 2025

Detailed Programme and Speaker Bios

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Summary Programme

PROGRAMME

Dates: 12 – 14 September 2025

Location: 1st floor Ballroom, NH Hotel, 138 Rivonia Road, Sandton 2196

Language: English / Spanish / French / Portuguese

*Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

DAY 0 : THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Arrival and registration

14:00 – 16:00

Tree planting ceremony

Host: Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) & Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ)

DAY 1 : FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2025

10:00 – 12:00

Opening Ceremony [Plenary session]

Ballroom 1-3,

Programme Director: SALGA CEO Sithole Mbanga

Cultural activity (Mzansi Ballet) – 10 minutes

Mayoral Voices: former U20 Chairs

- Tshwane Mayor Dr. Nasiphi Moya
- Johannesburg Mayor Sello Enoch Dada Morero
- Mayors from previous U20 host cities (Riyadh, Ahmedabad)

Cultural activity (UJ Choir) – 10 minutes

Keynote speaker

- SALGA President: Bheke Stofile
- ED UN-HABITAT Anacaludia Rossbach

Official opening

- C40 Cities Shruti Narayan
- UCLG SG Emilia Saiz

12:00 – 12:30

Media session (by invitation)

12:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 18:00

Technical visit:

Theme: Johannesburg Inner City

Regeneration Tour

- Jewel City
- Victoria Yards – Makers Valley
- Constitution Hill

14:00 – 14:50

Ballroom 2 Main track Session 1:

“From Global and National Commitments to Local Impact: Advancing a Just Transition In Cities”

Host: C40

Speakers

1. Moderator: C40 Cities Gifti Nadi
2. Presidential Climate Commission Dorah Modise
3. eThekweni Deputy Mayor Cllr Zandile Myeni
4. International Labour Organisation (ILO) Karl Pfeffer
5. Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA) Megan Euston-Brown
6. African Development Bank (AfDB)

14:50 – 15:00

Change of stage / theme music

15:00 – 15:50

Ballroom 2 Main track Session 2:

“Building Bridges, Not Walls: Promoting Social Inclusion in a Divided World”

Host: City of Johannesburg

		Speakers 1. Facilitator: Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO) Rashid Seedat 2. Ramallah Mayor Issa Kassis 3. Toronto Cllr Alejandro Bravo 4. Youth 20 Raymond Matlala
	15:50 – 16:00	Change of stage / theme music
	16:00 – 16:50	Ballroom 2 Main track Session 3: "Equal Speeds for Equal Futures: Making Digital Work for Society" Host: UCLG Speakers 1. Moderator: Prof Geci Karuri Sebina 2. Niteroi Mayor Rodrigo Neves 3. Izmir Mayor Dr. Cemil Tugay 4. New York Sherpa Aissata Camara 5. Science 20 Prof Thokozani Majozi
	16:50 – 17:00	Change of stage / theme music
	17:00–18:00	Ballroom 2 Main track Session 4: "Delivering the Local Social Covenant for a New Global Social Agenda" Host: UCLG Speakers 1. UCLG Emilia Saiz 2. UCLG Co-President & Kitchener Mayor Berry Vrbancovic 3. Johannesburg Mayor Sello Enoch Dada Morero 4. Ramallah Mayor Issa Kassis 5. The Hague Deputy Mayor Mariëlle Vavie 6. Youth 20 Raymond Matlala 7. International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Paula Sevilla 8. Habitat International Coalition (HIC) Yolande Hendler
19:00 – 21:00	Social event Cocktail function: Sherpas & Delegates	Mayoral Dinner: Celebrating Mayoral Leadership by invitation only. Sponsored by the city of Riyadh

DAY 2 : SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

09:00 – 09:50	Ballroom 1 Track 1 Session 1: "The Urban Frontier: Megacities and City Regions as Engines of National and Global Transformation" Host: SA Cities Network Speakers 1. Facilitator: SACN Nosipho Hlatshwayo 2. University of the Witwatersrand Prof Phil Harrison 3. Istanbul Sherpa Ambassador Mustafa Osman Turan	Ballroom 3 Track 2 Session 1: "From Goals to Impact: Advancing Urban Sustainability and Resilience Through the SDGs" Host: South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Speakers 1. SALGA Deputy President Cllr Flora Maboa-Boltman 2. Facilitator: UNDP Ms. Gloria Kiondo	09:00 – 13:00	Ballroom 2 U20 Mayoral Plenary – by invitation only C40 Cities & UCLG Two rounds (subject to change) 1. U20 2025 Priorities (Economic opportunities and Financing, Climate Action and Urban Resilience, Social Inclusion and Equity, Digital Transformation and Innovation) and taking priority asks forward with the G20 and national governments
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	4. Metropolis Jordi Vaquer	3. Tshwane Mayor Dr. Nasiphi Moya 4. São Paulo Sherpa Dr Angela Gandra 5. Connective Cities Ms. Sibylle Loyeau 6. Bonn Ms. Verena Schwarte 7. African Climate Alliance Youth Organisation Mr. Sibusiso Mazomba	2. Looking towards the future: Enhancing Government Engagement and the G20 2026. Delegates wishing to, may provide oral interventions on each topic with a limit of 3 minutes each.
09:50 – 10:00	Change of stage		
10:00 – 10:50	Ballroom 1 Track 1 Session 2 Title: “Green Construction Value Chains and Decent Jobs” Host: African Centre of Cities (ACC) Speakers 1. Facilitator: ACC Prof Edgar Pieterse 2. Atlanta Sherpa Chandra Farley 3. Isandla Institute Mirjam van Donk 4. IIED Paula Sevilla	Ballroom 3 Track 2 Session 2 Title: “Finance Your Cities: Sub-national Development Banks & Country Platforms for Localizing Finance” Host: Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) Speakers 1. Facilitator: FMDV Carlos de Freitas 2. Mayor Harilala Ramanantsoa, Antananarivo, Madagascar 3. Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) Mojabeng Monyamane 4. Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) Ben Mokheseng 5. Ramallah Mayor Issa Kassis	
10:50 – 11:00	Change of stage		
11:00 – 11:50	Ballroom 1 Track 1 Session 3 & 4 Title: “Enhancing Local Action for Delivery of Adequate Housing” Host: UN Habitat & SALGA Speakers 1. Un Habitat Anacláudia Roszbach 2. SALGA Sithole Mbanga 3. eThekweni Deputy Mayor Cllr Zandile Myeni 4. Rome Deputy Mayor Tobia Zevi	Ballroom 3 Track 2 Session 3: “From City Halls to Global Halls: City Diplomacy and Global Governance” Host: Metropolis Speakers 1. Facilitator: Metropolis Jordi Vaquer 2. Montreal Sherpa Esteban Benavides 3. Buenos Aires Sherpa Ana Ciuti 4. Tokyo Sherpa Sekiguchi Noboru	

11:50 – 12:00	5. Rio de Janeiro District Mayor Edinelson Silva de Lima	Change of stage		
12:00 – 13:00	6. Paris Sherpa Paul-David Regnier 7. UN Resident Coordinator in South Africa Mr Nelson Muffuh 8. SALGA Chairperson of Human Settlement and Urban Agenda Working Group Ald. Xolani Sotashe	Ballroom 3 Track 2 Session 4: "Mind the Gap: Politics, Media and Communities" Host: City of Johannesburg Speakers 1. Facilitator: Metropolis Jordi Vaquer 2. Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema 3. New York Sherpa Aissata Camara 4. Henry Nxumalo Foundation Anton Harber		
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch			
14:30 – 15:20	Ballroom 1 Track 1 Session 5: "Global Perspectives on Enhancing Urban Living: The Role of Quality-of-Life Surveys in Shaping Sustainable Cities" Host: Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO) Speakers 1. Facilitator: GCRO Graeme Gotz 2. GCRO Shamsunisaa Miles-Timotheus. Shamsunisaa 3. University of the Witwatersrand Dr Pedzisai Ndagurwa	Ballroom 3 Track 2 Session 5 Title: "Housing And Local Governance: Civil Society Propositions to Advance Care and Climate Justice" Host: International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Speakers 1. Facilitator: Isandla Institute Mirjam van Donk 2. HIC Yolande Hendler 3. IIED Paula Sevilla 4. Rome Deputy Mayor Tobia Zevi 5. Cape Town Phila Mayisela 6. SGS Consulting Shaun Samuels	Ballroom 2 Main track Session 5: "Promoting Peace through Local Conflict Prevention, Social Justice and Inclusive Migration Governance" Host: UCLG & City of Johannesburg Speakers 1. Facilitator ACC Prof Edgar Pieterse 2. The Hague Deputy Mayor Mariëlle Vavir 3. Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Dilpreet Sidhu 4. Banjul Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe 5. UNHCR Jesus Perez Sanchez	
15:20 – 15:30	Change of stage	Change of stage	Change of stage	
15:30 – 16:20	Ballroom 1 Track 1 Session 6: Title: "Pioneering Smart Transport That Is Climate Resilient, Sustainable and Fosters Inclusive Growth" Host: Rivonia Circle Speakers: 1. Facilitator: Anazi Zote Piper 2. Minister of Electricity and Energy Kgosisentsho Ramokgopa 3. MobiliseYourCity Sasank Vemuri	Ballroom 3 Track 2 Session 6 Title: "Powering Public Buildings: How Cities are Scaling Up Energy Efficiency through Global Collaboration" Host: City of Copenhagen and Embassy of Denmark City and GIZ Speakers 1. Facilitator: SEA Megan Euston-Brown 2. Danish Ambassador Karin Poulsen 3. Johannesburg Lebo Molefe 4. Copenhagen Anders Christian Lyngtorp 5. GIZ Jesper Vauvert	Ballroom 2 Main track Session 6: "Resourcing Local Futures: Navigating Financial Challenges and Innovative Funding Solutions for Local Governments" Host: U20 Conveners Speakers 1. UN Habitat Anacláudia Rossbach 2. Johannesburg Mayor Sello Enoch Dada Morero 3. Facilitator: Urban SDG Commission Mauricio Rodas 4. Tshwane Mayor Dr Nasiphi Moya 5. Rotterdam Mayor Carola Schouten	

			6. African Development Bank (AfDB) Mohan Vivekanandan 7. Minister of Trade and Industry Parks Tau
16:20 – 16:30	Change of stage	Change of stage	Change of stage
16:30 – 17:30	Ballroom 1 Track 1 Session 7 Title: “Establishment of an African Think Tank on Urban Management” Host: City of Tshwane Speakers 1. Facilitator: Nosipho Hlatshwayo 2. Tshwane Mayor Dr Nasiphi Moya 3. University of Pretoria Dr Taiwo Afinowi 4. Prof Mauricio Rodas 5. ACC Prof Edgar Pieterse	Ballroom 3 Track 2 Session 7 Title: “From Local Action to Systemic Change: Cities on the Frontlines Of Food System Justice” Host: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) & UCLG Speakers 1. Facilitator: University of Cape Town Jane Battersby 2. FAO Lewis Hove 3. Izmir Mayor Dr. Cemil Tugay 4. Rome Deputy Mayor Tobia Zevi 5. São Paulo Sherpa Dr Angela Gandra	Ballroom 2 Main track Session 7: “Local Economies as Engines of Inclusive Development: A New Vision for Governance and Informality through Equitable Climate Action and Public Service Provision” Host: U20 Conveners Speakers 1. UCLG Emilia Saiz 2. Minister of Human Settlements, Thembisile Simelane 3. Moderator: Regional Director Africa C40 Cities Anthony Okoth 4. Ahmedabad MC Banchhanidhi Pani 5. African Reclaimers Organization Luyanda Hlatshwayo 6. IIED Paula Sevilla
18:30 – 21:00	Social event 2: Dinner & Theatre The critically acclaimed South African musical Sarafina! at the Soweto Theatre		

DAY 3 : SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2025

08:30 – 09:30	Ballroom 3 COP30 Mayoral briefing
9:30 – 11:30	U20 Mayoral Closing Plenary: by invitation only Ballroom 2 [others will be able to observe the session from Ballroom 1] Facilitators: U20 Conveners Mayors provide closing remarks and commitments to share U20 Communique with country sherpas before G20 For further information on event format, please refer to the concept notes provided
11:30 – 12:00	Family photo
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:00	Taking seats for handover ceremony
14:00 – 15:45	Closing session and handover ceremony [Plenary session] Ballroom 1-3 Programme Director: Prof Edgar Pieterse Cultural activity (Siki Jo-An) U20 Conveners - C40 Cities Shruti Narayan - UCLG Emilia Saiz Mayoral voices - UCLG Co-President & Kitchener Mayor Berry Vrbancovic - C40 Cities Co-Chair & Freetown Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyer

	• Tshwane Mayor Dr. Nasiphi Moya • Johannesburg Mayor Sello Enoch Dada Morero Keynote speaker • SALGA President: Bheke Stofile • H.E Mr Nelson Muffuh, Resident Coordinator for United Nations in South Africa [TBC] Handover ceremony • G20 Sherpa Zane Dangor [TBC] • Former Deputy President and G20 Social Summit Convener Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka • COGTA Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa
15:45 – 16:15	Closed Media session
Departure	

Detailed Programme

DAY 0: 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Urban 20 tree planting

14:00 – 16:00

The Urban 20 tree planting event will share the same value of encouraging the leaders and communities to work together to change the landscape of their communities. Leaders and delegates will come together at Mushroom Park and plant 20 trees that symbolize unity and willingness to fight the global pandemic of climate change, land degradation and poverty. These trees are indigenous trees and endemic to South Africa.

Programme of the day

Time	Activity	Lead
INTRODUCTION		
14:00 - 14:15	Departure from the NH Hotel to the Mushroom Park	JCPZ
14:15 - 14:20	Welcome to the Facility	Programme Director: Thanduxolo Mendrew - Managing Director of JCPZ
14:20 - 14:25	Walk down to the Restaurant	ALL Delegates
Part A - Formal Programme (Inside Marquee)		
14:30 - 14:50	Opening and Welcome Remarks by the Mayor of Johannesburg (8 min)	Mayor Dada Morero
	Message by Tshwane Mayor (8 min)	Mayor, Dr Nasiphi Moya
	Message by UCLG (2 min)	UCLG Pablo Fernandez de Marmissolle
	Message by C40 (2 min)	C40 Shruti Narayan
Part B - Tree Planting		
14:50 - 14:55	Walk down to the Venue from the restaurant	ALL Delegates
14:55 - 15:20	Tree Planting Ceremony	ALL Delegates
15:20 - 15:30	Media Photo Op	Group Comms
15:30 - 15:40	Media One-on-Ones	Group Comms
15:40 - 15:45	Vote of thanks	Deputy Mayor Tebogo Nkonkou
15:45 - 16:00	Closing and Departure	ALL Delegates

DAY 1: 12 SEPTEMBER 2025

OPENING CEREMONY

10:00 – 12:00

Ballroom 1-3 Plenary

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

09:30	Guests and speakers meet in holding room Group photo
09:50	Guests and speakers move to plenary room and take seats in front row
10:00 – 10:10	Cultural item: Mzansi Ballet
10:10 – 10:15	Welcome remarks: Programme Director, Sithole Mbanga SALGA CEO
10:15 – 10:40	Introductions (5 minutes) & Mayoral voices (20 minutes) • Johannesburg: Mayor Sello Enoch Dada Morero (5 minutes) • Tshwane: Mayor Dr. Nasiphi Moya (5 minutes) • Ahmedabad: Municipal Commissioner Banchhanidhi Pani, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (5 minutes) • Riyadh: His Excellency Fahd Al-Rasheed, Saudi Arabia U20 Lead; Former Chair of the U20 (5 minutes)
10:40 – 10:55	Cultural item: Johannesburg University Choir
10:55 – 11:27	Introductions (2 minutes) & Keynote addresses: • SALGA President: Bheke Stofile (15 minutes) • ED UN-HABITAT Anacaludia Rossbach (15 minutes)
11:30 – 11:54	Introductions (2 minutes) & official opening remarks • C40 Head of Delegation Shruti Narayan (10 minutes) • UCLG Secretary-General Emilia Saiz (10 minutes)
11:55 – 12:00	Closing
12:00 – 12:30	Closed media session

Background information:

Mzansi Ballet:

Founded by Mr. Dirk Badenhorst (Director) in 2017, Mzansi Ballet is a truly unique dance company, identifying and cultivating young South African talent, Mzansi Ballet brings these dancers together with seasoned professionals to create pieces that tell truly South African Stories, as well as staying true to the cultural and historical accuracy of the Classical Ballets. The company has been very involved with communities around Johannesburg to grow and develop and foster opportunities for these young people and to create jobs and find ways for them to become self-sufficient. These dancers and choreographers from townships such as Soweto and Alexandra are given training in Ballet and are also trained to become teachers in the Cuban Ballet Methodology known as CuDanSA. This has been creating a multiplying effect in that the each of the teachers trained are now training many more students. Some of these young dancers and teachers are now becoming part of the Mzansi Ballet School which trains young dancers from across Gauteng in the Cuban Methodology as part of our vision to transform ballet in South Africa, Africa and the world. Moreover, we recognize the importance of making the arts accessible to everyone, including less fortunate communities. To this end, we are dedicated to assisting such communities in gaining access to theaters and, by extension, the enriching experience of "The Gold Rhino of Mapungubwe." This endeavor not only aligns with our commitment to cultural inclusivity but also underscores our desire to contribute to the broader cultural development of South Africa.

University of Johannesburg Choir

The globally renowned UJ Choir continues to contribute positively to the University of Johannesburg's profile by representing the musical excellence of the university and with its successful proven track record of enhancing student life and their university experience. The UJ Choir continues to create enriching and memorable local and international opportunities for over 95 UJ choir members. Being part of the prestigious UJ Choir teaches choral excellence discipline, which has produced graduates who excel in their academic and career prospects. Under the leadership of conductor Sizwe Mondlane, the UJ choir has released five albums which has received global recognition. They are all available on multiple streaming platforms, such as Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, YouTube music and Deezer.

Programme Director: Sithole Mbanga



Sithole Mbanga, CEO of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), is a highly respected thought leader in the local government sector with over two decades of experience advancing the urban development agenda. Previously CEO of the South African Cities Network (SACN), he played a key role in strengthening urban governance and municipal development. He has also held leadership roles in the National Business Initiative, contributing to national policy on Integrated Development Planning, and was part of the Local Government Transformation Programme that pioneered South Africa's democratic municipal system. Known for his dynamic and solutions-driven approach, Sithole has advised political and municipal leadership, served on prominent boards such as the Mandela Bay Development Agency and SANParks, and contributed to strategic initiatives across government sectors and as Deputy Secretary-General of UCLG Africa.

Mayoral Voices: U20 Chairs and former chairs

Councillor Dada Morero, Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa



Sello Enoch Dada Morero has served as the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg since his election in August 2024. Prior to assuming this role, he was the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Finance. He is also the regional chairperson of the African National Congress (ANC) in Johannesburg. With a career spanning public service, political leadership, and community advocacy, Morero envisions Johannesburg as a city of opportunity and excellence—a global leader in innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. His administration is focused on delivering a bold, transformative agenda. In 2025, Mayor Morero will co-host the U20 Summit in Johannesburg, bringing together global city leaders to tackle urban challenges. He also serves as President of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), further demonstrating his dedication to international cooperation and urban development. With a background in public service and anti-corruption, he has held various leadership roles in the City of Johannesburg since 2004. Mayor Morero holds multiple postgraduate qualifications.

Dr. Nasiphi Moya, Mayor of Tshwane, South Africa



Dr. Nasiphi Moya is the mayor of City of Tshwane. Cllr Moya joined ActionSA in 2021 as Chief Governance Director and was sworn in as a PR Councillor in Tshwane in January 2023. She rose swiftly through the ranks, serving as Deputy Mayor from January 2024 and was elected Executive Mayor of Tshwane on 9 October 2024. Cllr Nasiphi Moya is a seasoned public policy and governance expert with a strong academic foundation and a dynamic political career. She began her political journey at the University of Cape Town (UCT), where she earned a Bachelor of Social Science in Politics and Public Policy, followed by an Honours and a Master of Philosophy in Public Policy and Administration. She later obtained a PhD in Political Science from the University of the Western Cape in 2021. With a solid background in public administration, policy development, and political leadership, Cllr Moya brings academic depth, governance expertise, and a proven commitment to democratic transformation and effective service delivery.



Municipal Commissioner Banchhanidhi Pani, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation

Banchhanidhi Pani, is an experienced Indian Administrative Service officer. In 2025, he has assumed office as the Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) after recent administrative transfers. He has previously served in the same role in Surat, Bhavnagar, and Rajkot. He has extensive municipal administration experience.

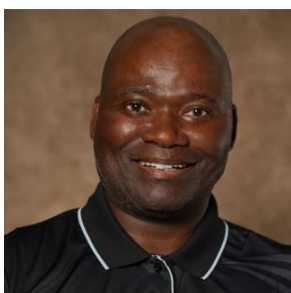


His Excellency Fahd Al-Rasheed, Saudi Arabia U20 Lead; Former Chair of the U20

His Excellency, **Fahd bin Abdulmohsan Al-Rasheed** was appointed by Royal Decree as Advisor in the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on April 2nd, 2023. Al-Rasheed chairs the Saudi Conventions and Exhibitions General Authority and represents the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a lead on the Urban 20 from 2020. His Excellency also serves on the boards of multiple organizations, including: the Royal Commission for Riyadh City, the Prince Mohammed Bin Salman College, Riyadh Air, New Murabba Development Company, Diriyah Gate Company Limited, Soudah Development Company, Qiddiya Investment Company, and King Abdullah University of Science and Technology.

Keynote addresses

Cllr Bheke Charles Stofile, SALGA President



Cllr Bheke Charles Stofile is the Speaker of Matjhabeng Local Municipality and was elected SALGA President at SALGA's National Conference held in March 2022. On Friday, 14 October 2022, President Stofile was elected as one of the 5 Co-Presidents of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). He has over time been involved in various leadership levels that resulted in him acquiring a high level of strategic planning and executive skills namely: Public Management, Competencies, Strategic Executive Leadership Skills, Capacity to build commitment in the team, Teamwork, decisive decision making and thoughtful leadership, Good negotiator and ability to influence, Build networks and partnerships skills, Good communication and facilitation skills, Well-developed stakeholder and political acumen expertise, Change management and solid corporate governance expertise, Good writing and solid project management skills, Analytical and organizing skill and Public Management skills.

Anaclaudia Rossbach, UN-Habitat



Anacláudia Rossbach is the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and an economist with over 20 years of experience in housing, informal settlements, and urban policies. She was appointed Executive Director of UN-Habitat at the Under-Secretary-General level by the General Assembly, following nomination by the UN Secretary-General on 7 June 2024. Prior to this role, she was the Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and served as Regional Manager for Cities Alliance, where she founded the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub. Prior to that, with the World Bank, she oversaw the development and implementation of Brazilian housing and slum-upgrading policies. Ms. Rossbach has actively contributed to global urban policy discussions and has a strong academic presence in the field. She took office on 12 August 2024.

U20 Conveners

Shruti Narayan, C40



Shruti Narayan Shruti Narayan is C40's Managing Director for Regions and Mayoral Engagement as well as Regional Director for South and West Asia. With global experience spanning over two decades, she leads C40's regional efforts to mainstream climate action for resilient and equitable cities. Before joining C40, Shruti has worked in several key global organizations such as Arup and USAID, she joined C40 from the International Finance Corporation working on municipal financing. In addition she has been a visiting faculty at several academic institutions such as Stanford University, California College of Arts and School of Planning and Architecture. She is particularly passionate about working with students and women-led groups in building a strong and supportive community of climate champions.

Emilia Saiz, UCLG

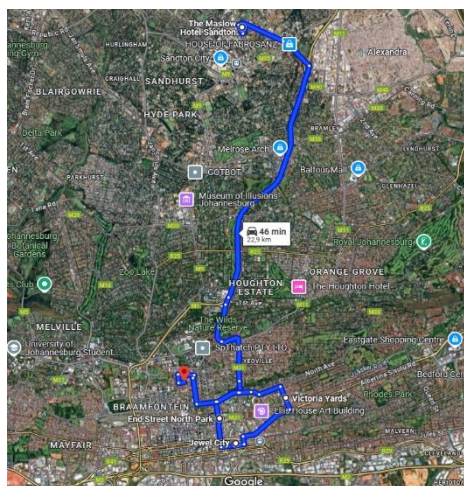


Emilia Sáiz is Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). She has worked with the international movement of local and regional governments in different capacities since 1997, leading programmes and initiatives on institutional capacity building, the participation of women in local decision-making and decentralized cooperation. She played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and represented local and regional governments in international processes such as the Rio and Beijing +20, the Climate Agreement, SDGs and Habitat III and facilitated contributions from local constituencies to United Nations processes.

TECHNICAL TOUR

14:00 – 18:00 Johannesburg Inner City Regeneration Tour

The Inner City Regeneration Tour aims to provide a real sense of Johannesburg Life. Expect to experience the sights, smells, sounds and taste our unique, vibrant and challenging City. The visit aims to demonstrate both the challenging components of the City of Johannesburg and key successful interventions by both the City, Province and Private Partners and will include sites/projects which, simultaneously demonstrate the U20 themes as well as transformation and the complexity of redeveloping inclusive urban spaces, through integrated and collaborative partnerships - the whole of society approach where no-one is left behind.



Constitution Hill: A powerful symbol of South Africa’s democratic transition, now serving as a cultural, civic, and entrepreneurial anchor. The visit will explore the adaptive reuse of this heritage site to support SMME development, social innovation, and digital transformation, grounded in human rights and equity.

Jewel City: A former industrial zone transformed into a thriving mixed-use precinct. Jewel City embodies the City’s Inclusionary Housing Policy, which merges real estate development with social equity. It highlights the role of innovative financial models, urban management, and precinct-scale security in catalysing economic renewal.

Victoria Yards: An outstanding example of grassroots-led urban innovation. Located within the Maker’s Valley, it integrates urban agriculture, local enterprise support, community skills training programmes, creative industries, and water-sensitive urban design. Delegates will learn about the “Water for the Future” project, which supports ecological restoration of the Jukskei River, enhancing both sustainability and community livelihoods.

MAIN TRACK SESSION

Main track Session 1: Title: “From Global and National Commitments to Local Impact: Advancing a Just Transition In Cities”

14:00 – 14:50

Ballroom 2

Host: C40

This high-level mayoral session will highlight the essential role of cities in leading equitable, low-carbon transitions. It will elevate key messages on just transition planning and showcase practical mechanisms and financing models that are working for cities—ensuring the urban transition is not only green, but also fair and inclusive. The session will also contribute to shaping the urban narrative in the lead-up to COP30, reinforcing the importance of justice and equity in global climate negotiations. A potential partnership with the Presidential Climate Commission is being explored. Speakers and the concept note are to be confirmed by C40.



Facilitator: Gifti Nadi, Deputy Director for Africa, C40 Cities

As the Deputy Regional Director for Africa for C40 Climate Leadership Group, **Gifti Nadi** works closely with the political and technical leadership and climate ambitions of 12 African cities. Previously at C40, Gifti served as City Diplomacy Manager – Global Campaigns focusing on the lead up to the CitiesIPCC campaign and conference held in March 2018 in Edmonton, Canada. Gifti began her C40 tenure as City Adviser for Addis-Ababa where she primarily worked with the political and operational leadership within city government to facilitate the delivery and public engagement plan of the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Gifti has more than 15 years of experience in the fields of capacity building, media and communications,

public policy, gender equality, health and rural development. She has worked with the Ethiopian Development Research Institute and Ethiopian Economics Association as part of the Think Tank Initiative's Policy Engagement and Communications program. Her previous roles also include time at UNDP's Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP) in Nairobi, and at the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) in Washington DC, as the Senior Program Officer for Africa. Gifti holds a Master's degree in International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Maryland.



Dorah Modise, Presidential Climate Commission

Dorah Modise was appointed as Executive Director of the Presidential Climate Commission in February 2025. In this role, she is responsible for running the Secretariat of the PCC and its various policy and research programmes. She previously held the position of C40 Regional Director for Africa, working in the African Region through cooperative engagements with city leaders and teams to accelerate implementation of their climate change programmes. Dorah is a sustainability enthusiast with over 26 years' experience in the environmental sustainability, international diplomacy, Government (local, regional & national) as well as Industry Associations. She was the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the South African Paper and Packaging Producer Responsibility Organisations Alliance (PRO Alliance) tasked with conceptualising and implementing joint extended producer responsibility programmes with and on behalf of member PROs. Her other executive role was as Chief Executive officer of the Green Building Council of South Africa where she led green transformation of the built environment sector through numerous green building certification tools and programmes also served as the chairperson of the World Green Building Council's Africa Regional Network with a key role of coordinating, consolidating, and stimulating the development of Green Building Councils across the African Continent. Dorah also held a position of Head of Sustainability at the City of Tshwane (Capital city of South Africa) where she conceptualised and implemented groundbreaking city sustainability programmes. Dorah's tenure at the National Environment allowed her to develop & refine her environmental diplomacy skills through her leadership roles in the then United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development processes including the Rio plus 20 in 2012. Dorah is proud to have led the development of the environment sector green economy response programme including the establishment of the national green fund.



Councillor Zandile Myeni, Deputy Mayor of eThekweni, South Africa

Zandile Myeni is the Deputy Mayor and Chairperson of Security and Emergency Services Committee for eThekweni Metropolitan City. She was elected as Deputy Mayor in April 2023. Myeni holds a Bachelor of Education studies from the University of Zululand. As a passionate and dedicated community worker and leader, she has served in various leadership roles. From 2003-2004, she served as the Student Representative Council Deputy President at the University of Zululand. She has also led the South African Democratic Student Movement (SADESMO). She actively participated in the first KwaZulu-Natal Youth Council. Furthermore, Deputy Mayor Myeni is the former Secretary-General for the Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa (URCSA) Christian Movement. She is also the URCSA church council member. Besides being an educator by profession, she is also the former eThekweni Regional Secretary and site steward for the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU).



Karl Pfeffer, Project Manager, International Labour Organization

Karl Pfeffer is a Project Manager at International Labour Organization (ILO), in Pretoria, Gauteng, leading the Sustain project, which promotes decent work and strengthens the capacity of labour ministries, labour inspectors, and social partners. The project advances international labour standards and responsible business conduct through sustainable trade and investments in Southern Africa. He was previously a Senior Programme Officer at the Sustainable Enterprises Programme of the International Training Centre of the ILO, where he was responsible for the training portfolio on Responsible Business Conduct and Multinational Enterprises. Karl joined the ILO in 2010, working in Pretoria (South Africa) and Lusaka (Zambia) on private sector development and sustainable enterprises. Prior to that, he gained international experience in trade union development in Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia, and worked as a technical advisor in technical and vocational training in Ecuador (2004–2008) and Chile (2003). He holds an MSc in Social Anthropology from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and an MSc in Educational Sciences from the Free University of Brussels, Belgium.

[TBD] Mohan Vivekanandan, African Development Bank Group



Assoc Prof Mohan Vivekanandan supports the African Development Bank to increase its impact in the African municipal and sub-national sectors, as a senior advisor for urban infrastructure and municipal finance. He also is a member of the Development Bank of Southern Africa's (DBSA) Group Executive Committee, with accountability for pan-African deal origination/client management. The DBSA's mandate is sustainable infrastructure development and financing across the African continent. His teams concluded over 30 transactions worth ZAR16bn in the last financial year. Mohan's focus is the intersection of infrastructure and development finance. He is a member of the WEF Global Futures Council on Development Finance and the OECD-led Fast INFRA initiative. He is a board member of Invest Africa-US and previously the SADC Development Finance Centre. Mohan also serves as an adjunct professor of development finance at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business. Mohan holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management and an MSc in Global Finance from New York University Stern School of Business. He completed a BA (Honours) in Economics and Applied Mathematics from Northwestern University in Chicago, USA.

[TBD] **Ms Victoria Flattau**, African Development Bank Group

Victoria Flattau is a Senior Urban Development Officer at the African Development Bank, where she supports the Bank's Urban and Municipal Development Fund (UMDF) and leads initiatives to promote sustainable, resilient, and inclusive cities across Africa, with a focus on Southern Africa. She has extensive experience in urban planning, green infrastructure, and sustainable city development, having worked on projects that expand access to essential services, strengthen climate resilience, and improve the quality of life in rapidly growing urban areas. Her work at AfDB includes advancing innovative financing and partnerships to accelerate the just transition in African cities and ensure that global and national commitments translate into tangible local impact.



Megan Euston-Brown, Sustainable Energy Africa

Megan Euston-Brown is a Director of Sustainable Energy Africa, a not-for-profit organisation supporting urban sustainable energy transitions in South and Sub-Saharan Africa. Megan has worked in the field of energy for development since 2003. Her experience includes urban energy data and GHG emissions inventories, City climate and energy strategy planning across all sectors, implementation in relation to distribution utility business transition, small scale embedded generation, energy efficiency. Between 2020 – 2023, Megan lead the implementation of the C40 net zero carbon building regulation across the 4 large South African metros. The work of SEA

has since supported capacity building across building inspectorates of city's as well as improved data systems for NZC building monitoring.

Main track Session 2: Title: “Building Bridges, Not Walls: Promoting Social Inclusion in a Divided World”

15:00 – 15:50

Ballroom 2

Host: City of Johannesburg

This session responds to the growing challenges of urban inequality and exclusion faced by marginalized groups globally. In a time of rising divisions and complex global pressures, cities are stepping up to foster solidarity and inclusion. This session will highlight the vital role of local leadership, community-driven solutions, and inclusive policies in bridging divides and advancing social justice. It offers practical insights and a shared vision for equitable urban development worldwide.

Facilitator: Rashid Seedat, Gauteng City-Region Observatory



Rashid Seedat is the Executive Director of the Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO). He is responsible for strategic management and the overall research agenda of the organisation. The GCRO is a partnership between the Gauteng Provincial Government, organised local government in Gauteng, the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Johannesburg that is aimed at conducting independent research on social, economic, environmental and governance dimensions of the city-region. Between 2011 and May 2021, Rashid headed the Gauteng Planning Commission in the Office of the Premier (Governor) of the Gauteng Province. He was responsible for transversal strategic, spatial and infrastructure planning and performance monitoring and evaluation. He also headed the Delivery Support Unit in the Office of the Premier that sought to accelerate service delivery priorities across Gauteng provincial departments. At the City of Johannesburg, between 2001 and 2011, he headed the Central Strategy Unit in the Office of the Executive Mayor. During the 1980s, he was active in the struggle against the apartheid system in a range of resistance organisations. In his private capacity, he is a Trustee of the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation. Rashid studied at Wits University where he obtained a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in public management and a master's degree in development planning.

Youth 20 Representative, Raymond Matlala



Raymond Matlala is a PhD candidate in Business Administration and has played a pivotal role in global youth engagement, particularly through his extensive involvement in the G20 and BRICS. His expertise in international cooperation, youth leadership, and policy advisory has positioned him as a thought leader in shaping youth-driven policy frameworks worldwide. He is currently the executive chairman of the South African BRICS Youth Association and Board Chair of the World Youth Summit NPC, an organization with consultative status at ECOSOC. In addition to his Y20 engagements, Raymond has a strong footprint in international forums, including serving at the Civil BRICS Council South Africa as a co-secretariat and focal person; Committee Chair at BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Young Leaders

South African chapter; Honorary Advisor & Expert at The International Youth Edu-Skills Foundation and Technical advisor for the SADC Youth Council.

Councillor Alejandro Bravo, City of Toronto, Canada



Alejandra Bravo currently serves as the City Councillor for Ward 9 (Davenport) and Chair of Economic & Community Development Committee at the City of Toronto, guiding Toronto's work to build a more fair city with strong public services, good jobs, and an inclusive economy. She also serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Health, Vice Chair of Striking Committee, Chair of the Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee, and as a member of the Executive Committee, Toronto Arts Council, Long-Term Care Committee of Management, and several local boards and business improvement areas. Alejandra has a 25-year history of leadership with civil society organizations, including as the Director of Leadership and Training at the Broadbent Institute, Manager of Leadership and Learning at Maytree, and Founding Director of the Power Lab, a leadership learning initiative co-created with the Atkinson Foundation that is focused on local organizing for a more fair economy. She also served on the board of various non-profit community organizations, as a public member of the Toronto Board of Health, and as Chair of the Davenport TDSB Ward Council. Alejandra is a graduate of the University of Toronto and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Born in Chile, Alejandra moved to Canada with her family as a refugee when she was a child. In addition to English she is fluent in Spanish, French, and Portuguese.

Mayor Kassis, Ramallah, Palestine



Issa Kassis, the mayor of Ramallah, was elected in the first quarter of 2022. Resilience and sustainable development expert and practitioner. A banker and financial expert, started his career with HSBC, moved between Jordan and Palestine in several senior financial positions. Kassis served as CEO for The Palestine Mortgage and Housing Corp, advisor to the Governor and board member at the Palestine Monetary Authority, financial advisor at Palestine Investment Fund, PIF, for SME loans guarantee fund and affordable housing, Kassis established two Fintech startups in 2020 & 2021. Ambassador of the UCLG Pact for future – Ambassador for the Future of Government. Board member and treasurer of the Metropolis Network. Board member at Palestine Pension Fund Authority. Kassis served on the boards of many public and private companies, schools and universities. Mayor Kassis was born in Jerusalem, raised in diaspora and returned in 2001 to serve his country / Palestine. Kassis is married and has two daughters. He earned his International Executive MBA from Kellogg / Northwestern University - Chicago and has an undergraduate degree in finance and banking.

Main track Session 3: Title: "Equal Speeds for Equal Futures: Making Digital Work for Society"

16:00 – 16:50

Ballroom 2

Host: UCLG

This high-level session will explore how cities can harness digital transformation to drive social inclusion, equity, and improved public service delivery. It will highlight local strategies that ensure no one is left behind in the digital age—bridging connectivity gaps, promoting digital rights, and expanding access to technology for all. The session will position digital innovation as a tool for empowerment, not exclusion, and will share practical examples of how cities are shaping people-centred digital futures. Speakers and the concept note are to be confirmed by UCLG.

Moderator: Prof Geci Karuri Sebina



Professor Geci Karuri-Sebina is a scholar-practitioner who works in the intersection between people, place, time and technological change. She currently serves as an Associate Professor of digital governance at the University of Witwatersrand's School of Governance where she leads the Tayarisha Centre for Digital Governance, and coordinates the Civic Tech Innovation Network. Geci has recently co-edited two seminal volumes on digital governance in Africa: *Digitalisation and Public Policy in Africa: GovTech and CivicTech Innovations* (2025, Palgrave Macmillan), and *Africa's Digital Transformation and its Governance* (forthcoming, African Minds/ Leuven University).

Mr. Rodrigo Neves, Mayor of Niteroi, Brazil



Mr. Rodrigo Neves is a Brazilian politician affiliated with the Democratic Labor Party (PDT). Elected to his third term as mayor of Niterói, Rodrigo's history of dedication to public life is marked by a deep commitment to social justice, reducing inequality, and sustainable development. Graduated in Social Sciences from the Fluminense Federal University (UFF), Rodrigo began his activism at a young age, joining the Niteroiense Union of Secondary Students (UNES), where he led movements such as the defence of free public transport for students and the "painted faces" movement, which called for ethics in politics. His political career began in 1996, when, at age 21, he became Niterói's youngest city councillor. Re-elected in 2000 and 2004, he went on to the Rio de Janeiro State Legislative Assembly (Alerj), where he served two terms as a state representative. During this period, he authored important legislation, such as the Master Plan for the Metropolitan Region and the State Council of Cities. In 2010, Rodrigo was invited to take over the State Secretariat of Social Assistance and Human Rights. In this role, he launched the Rio Sem Miséria program, a pioneering program in Brazil, aimed at overcoming extreme poverty. Elected mayor of Niterói in 2013 and re-elected in 2017, Rodrigo faced significant challenges upon inheriting a city with serious fiscal and administrative problems. Focusing on planning and management, he reorganized the municipality's finances, restored the quality of public services, and implemented innovative policies. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, his leadership put Niterói in the national spotlight with unprecedented measures such as the creation of a dedicated hospital for coronavirus treatment, street sanitization, and programs like Temporary Basic

Income and Citizen Company. After leaving office as mayor with an 80% approval rating, Rodrigo returned to public administration in February 2023 as executive secretary of the Niterói City Hall, at the invitation of Mayor Axel Graef. He took on the role with the mission of supporting the implementation of the Niterói 450 Years Plan, the largest set of projects in the city's history, reaffirming his commitment to public policies focused on the most vulnerable populations.

Dr. Cemil Tugay, Mayor of İzmir, Turkey



Dr. Cemil Tugay is a medical doctor and experienced public leader with a distinguished career spanning healthcare, academia, and local governance. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Ege University in 1989 and initially served as a general practitioner in Çorum and Tire. Between 1993 and 2000, he specialized in Plastic Surgery at İzmir Atatürk Training and Research Hospital, where he also completed his specialist doctorate. During this period, he broadened his expertise with a year of research at the Cleveland Clinic in the United States. Following his specialization, Dr. Tugay worked as a Plastic Surgery specialist at Karşıyaka Public Hospital (2001–2005) and İzmir Çiğli Kent Hospital (2005–2009), before establishing his own private practice in Karşıyaka in 2009. Alongside his medical career, he became actively involved in professional associations, serving in leadership positions within the Turkish Medical Association, the İzmir Chamber of Medicine, and the Turkish Plastic Surgery Association. Dr. Tugay entered public service as a member of the Republican People's Party (CHP) in 2010, holding several executive and advisory roles within the party at provincial and district levels. In 2019, he was elected Mayor of Karşıyaka Municipality, a position he held until 2024. In June 2024, Dr. Tugay was elected President of the Union of Healthy Cities of Turkey, where he continues to champion policies that promote healthier, more sustainable urban environments.

Aissata Camara, U20 Sherpa New York, United States of America



Aissata M.B. Camara is a global strategist and public servant dedicated to bridging local action with international solutions. As Commissioner & Chief of Staff in the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs, she advises city leadership on global policy, manages diplomatic incidents, and ensures NYC remains a trusted global partner. Aissata collaborates with the United Nations, Consulates, international organizations, and the private sector to shape policy, drive economic diplomacy, and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She has led award-winning initiatives, including the NYC Junior Ambassadors program and the Voluntary Local Review movement, now adopted by 330+ cities worldwide. A Fulbright Specialist, global advocate, and sought-after speaker, Aissata shares insights on subnational diplomacy, gender equity, and inclusive economic growth at the UN and major global forums. Her work has been featured in The New York Times, AMNY, The Guardian,

PBS, and Deutsche Welle. Named to the Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) Hall of Fame, a Baruch College Alumni Changemaker, a Thomson Reuters Trust Conference Changemaker, and honored for public service innovation, Aissata is driven by a vision to build resilient, inclusive, and globally connected communities.

Science 20, Thokozani Majozi,



Thokozani Majozi is the Executive Dean of Engineering and the Built Environment and a full professor in Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering at Wits University, where he also holds the NRF/DST Chair in Sustainable Process Engineering. He is renowned for his research in process integration, particularly for developing frameworks and models for batch plants, zero-effluent chemical facilities, and membrane network systems, widely adopted by industry. Previously, he served as associate professor at the University of Pretoria and the University of Pannonia in Hungary. He holds a PhD in Process Integration from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, obtained through a Commonwealth Scholarship. Prof Majozi is President of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the 2025 Science20 (S20) President, a fellow of multiple academies including AAS and the UK's IChemE and is a registered Professional and Chartered Engineer. His numerous accolades include the Zdenek Burianec Memorial Award (Italy), multiple NSTF and NRF President's Awards, the S2A3 British Association Medal, and the AU-TWAS Award. In 2019, he received the Order of Mapungubwe in Bronze, South Africa's highest national honour. He has authored over 300 scientific publications, including four books on chemical process integration and water management, and previously chaired the CSIR Board.

Main track Session 4: Title: "Delivering the Local Social Covenant for a New Global Social Agenda"

17:00 – 17:50

Ballroom 2

Host: UCLG

This session will highlight the Local Social Covenant—UCLG's global initiative to advance social justice, equality, and sustainable urban development through locally driven action. Linked to the G20 Social Summit and the 2025 World Summit for Social Development, the Covenant promotes high-level political commitment, practical solutions, and stronger multilateral cooperation. The session will showcase how cities are building inclusive social contracts through public services, care systems, and social protection, reinforcing their role in shaping a fair and people-centred global social agenda. Speakers and the concept note are to be confirmed by UCLG.

Emilia Saiz, UCLG



Emilia Sáiz is Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). She has worked with the international movement of local and regional governments in different capacities since 1997, leading programmes and initiatives on institutional capacity building, the participation of women in local decision-making and decentralized cooperation. She played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and represented local and regional

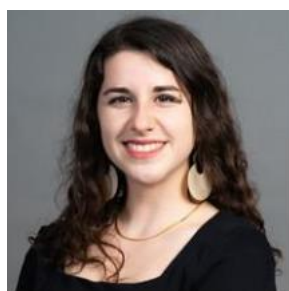
governments in international processes such as the Rio and Beijing +20, the Climate Agreement, SDGs and Habitat III and facilitated contributions from local constituencies to United Nations processes.

Berry Vrbanovic, UCLG Co-President & Mayor of Kitchener, Canada



Mayor Berry Vrbanovic serves as Co-President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the world's largest organization of local and regional governments. Elected to the UCLG Presidency for the 2022–2026 term, he plays a pivotal role in advancing global municipal diplomacy, sustainable urban development, and inclusive governance. As Co-President, Mayor Vrbanovic represents UCLG at high-level international forums advocating for the priorities of cities and local governments worldwide. His leadership within UCLG has included roles as Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, and Vice-Chair of the Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy Committee. He is also President Emeritus of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Vrbanovic has been Mayor of Kitchener, Ontario, since 2014, following 20 years as a city councillor. His international perspective is shaped by his personal journey as an immigrant from Zagreb, Croatia, and his commitment to building inclusive, resilient communities. He holds a BA in Political Science and a Diploma in Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University and is an alumnus of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative.

Paula Sevilla Núñez, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)



Paula Sevilla Núñez is a researcher on housing justice at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). Paula is passionate about tackling inequality and building equitable and peaceful societies through inclusive urban policy. She is also committed to developing a more effective multilateral system. She specialises in conducting applied policy analysis on issues such as housing inequality and financialisation, local governance, and effective multilateral action for more sustainable, fairer and caring cities. In her work, she facilitates multi-stakeholder engagements to catalyse impactful partnerships for sustainable development at the local, national and international level. Paula is also part of IIED's efforts to engage with Majority World philanthropy to address global funding challenges and unjust power dynamics in multilateral spaces. She is helping convene partnerships with philanthropy and civil society networks around processes such as the G20 and the Financing for Development Forum to advance social justice in global financing conversations.

Yolande Hendler, General Secretary of Habitat International Coalition



Yolande Hendler is the General Secretary of Habitat International Coalition (HIC), a global, member-based, civil society coalition working to respect, protect and progressively fulfil human rights related to habitat, particularly the human right to adequate housing. Rooted in Southern Africa, she has worked with diverse civil society collectives across the globe, facilitating emancipatory learning, collective agenda-setting and human rights-based advocacy at multiple spheres of policy and governance. She holds an MA in Global Studies from Leipzig University.

Raymond Matlala, Youth 20 representative



Raymond Matlala is a PhD candidate in Business Administration and has played a pivotal role in global youth engagement, particularly through his extensive involvement in the G20 and BRICS. His expertise in international cooperation, youth leadership, and policy advisory has positioned him as a thought leader in shaping youth-driven policy frameworks worldwide. He is currently the executive chairman of the South African BRICS Youth Association and Board Chair of the World Youth Summit NPC, an organization with consultative status at ECOSOC. In addition to his Y20 engagements, Raymond has a strong footprint in international forums, including serving at the Civil BRICS Council South Africa as a co-secretariat and focal person; Committee Chair at BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Young Leaders South African chapter; Honorary Advisor & Expert at The International Youth Edu-Skills Foundation and Technical advisor for the SADC Youth Council.

Councillor Dada Morero, Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa



Sello Enoch Dada Morero has served as the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg since his election in August 2024. Prior to assuming this role, he was the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Finance. He is also the regional chairperson of the African National Congress (ANC) in Johannesburg. With a career spanning public service, political leadership, and community advocacy, Morero envisions Johannesburg as a city of opportunity and excellence—a global leader in innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. His administration is focused on delivering a bold, transformative agenda. In 2025, Mayor Morero will co-host the U20 Summit in Johannesburg, bringing together global city leaders to tackle urban challenges. He also serves as President of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), further demonstrating his dedication to international cooperation and urban development. With a background in public service and anti-corruption, he has held various leadership roles in the City of Johannesburg since 2004. Mayor Morero holds multiple postgraduate qualifications.



Mariëlle Vavie, Deputy Mayor of The Hague, Netherlands

Mariëlle Vavie is The Hague's Deputy Mayor for Poverty, Inclusion, Public Health and International Affairs. She previously worked as board secretary at Jeugdbescherming West, an institution for youth protection and youth probation. For her political party GroenLinks she has been, among other things, support group member for the GroenLinks provincial parliamentary group (2011 to 2015), representative for the GroenLinks municipal council group (2016 to 2018), GroenLinks municipal group chair (2021). In 2022 she was party leader for the municipal elections in The Hague. In September 2022, she was installed as Deputy Mayor for a period of four years.



Issa Kassis, Mayor of Ramallah, Palestine

Issa Kassis, the mayor of Ramallah, was elected in the first quarter of 2022. Resilience and sustainable development expert and practitioner. A banker and financial expert, started his career with HSBC, moved between Jordan and Palestine in several senior financial positions. Kassis served as CEO for The Palestine Mortgage and Housing Corp, advisor to the Governor and board member at the Palestine Monetary Authority, financial advisor at Palestine Investment Fund, PIF, for SME loans guarantee fund and affordable housing, Kassis established two Fintech startups in 2020 & 2021. Ambassador of the UCLG Pact for future – Ambassador for the Future of Government. Board member and treasurer of the Metropolis Network. Board member at Palestine Pension Fund Authority. Kassis served on the boards of many public and private companies, schools and universities. Mayor Kassis was born in Jerusalem, raised in diaspora and returned in 2001 to serve his country / Palestine. Kassis is married and has two daughters. He earned his International Executive MBA from Kellogg / Northwestern University - Chicago and has an undergraduate degree in finance and banking.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Mayoral Dinner – Celebrating Mayoral Leadership (By Invitation)

Invitees

Ministers
Premier
Mayors
Deputy Mayors
Special Guests

The Riyadh Government, will host a special dinner for U20 Mayors and distinguished guests on 12 September 2025 at the Westcliff Four Seasons. This tradition was first introduced during the Rio U20 Summit. The by-invitation-only gathering will bring together Ministers, the Gauteng Premier, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and other special guests to celebrate mayoral leadership. The evening will include, keynote messages from political

leaders, and a formal dinner in recognition of collaborative urban leadership as well as the soft launch of Mayoral Urban Leadership Education programme by Prof Rodas.

Order of Proceedings

18:30 – 19:00 Transfer by bus from NH Hotel to Westcliff Four Seasons

19:00 – 19:30 Welcome cocktails

19:30 – 20:30

- Welcome message by Mayor Morero (5 minutes)
- Message from Riyadh Mayor HE Fahd Al-Rasheed U20 KSA Lead, U20 2020 Chair, Riyadh (10 minutes)
- Soft launch of Mayoral Urban Leadership Education programme (Prof Rodas (30 minutes)
- Message from Gauteng Premier Lesufi (10 minutes)
- Vote of Thanks – Tshwane Mayor Moya (5 minutes)

20:30 – 22:00 Dinner

22:00 Departure

Cocktail Networking Function – Sherpas & Delegates

Invitees

All delegates not invited to the Mayoral Dinner

Unwind and connect after a day of enriching activities at our relaxed cocktail function. Enjoy the rich flavours of African cuisine, complemented by the finest South African wines. Let the soulful sounds of Tshepang Ramoba set the mood as you mingle, network, and reflect on the day's experiences in a warm and inviting atmosphere.

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERSON
19:00 – 19:30	Arrival & Welcome Drinks while enjoying the entertainment	All
19:30 – 19:35	Opening remarks	U20 Joburg Sherpa Zayd Ebrahim
19:35 – 19:40	Welcome by Junior Mayor	Jnr Cllr Kamogelo Malikane
19:40 – 19:50	Welcome address	Cllr Loyiso Masuku
19:50 – 21:00	Dinner, drinks and networking	
21:00	Closure	

Musical performance: Tshepang Ramoba



Tshepang Ramoba, also known as RMBO, is a South African musician, drummer, vocalist, and producer, best known as the drummer for the band BLK JKS. He is recognized for his diverse musical background, which combines traditional African music with contemporary and avant-garde elements and has also served as a music supervisor for films and run his own music production house, POST POST. His music is characterized by infectious rhythms, lyrical melodies, and a masterful blend of traditional African sounds with modern components. He incorporates influences from Afrobeat and West African highlife, creating a unique sonic experience that is both nostalgic and avant-garde. Ramoba's music often carries spiritual elements, serving as a meditative and cleansing tool.

DAY 2: 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

U20 Mayoral Plenary: Closed door session

09:00 – 13:00

Ballroom 2

The U20 Mayoral Plenary will bring together U20 Mayors and Sherpas (participating and observer cities) to discuss key messages of the U20 2025 Communiqué, G20 engagement and advocacy, as well as joint challenges facing cities in a closed-door setting. Participation is open to mayors and city leaders only.

Topic 1: U20 2025 Priorities and taking priority asks forward with national governments/the G20.

- What is the most important message of the 2025 Communiqué and why is it important that G20 governments commit to taking action in this area?
- How can national governments help scale and accelerate your city's progress, and overcome barriers to action, in these priority areas?? Please feel free to provide a specific example.
- What are the most effective avenues and opportunities for cities to engage national governments on these key asks, between now and the G20 Summit in November? Please feel free to provide a specific example of how your city plans to build momentum behind the Communiqué asks.

Topic 2: Looking towards the future: Enhancing Government Engagement and the 2026 cycle in the United States.

- How can we strengthen engagement with the G20 and national governments? What specific mechanisms of engagement do you propose the U20 focus on?
- Please share any reflections on the progress of advocacy during this U20 cycle, e.g. the webinar on governments' engagement, the production of a statement
- with key asks for the G20 Sherpa meeting in June. What else can the U20 do to strengthen our collective advocacy in the next cycle?
- If you could take only one key priority from this year's cycle and advocate for its continued prioritisation in the next year's U20 cycle, what would that be and why?
- How can the U20 - as a group representing joint asks from cities - use its voice and influence in other global fora?

MAIN TRACK SESSIONS

Main track Session 5: Title: "Promoting Peace through local conflict prevention, Social Justice and Inclusive Migration Governance".

14:30 – 15:20

Ballroom2

Host: UCLG & City of Johannesburg

Aligned with U20 cities' commitment to multilateralism, democracy, solidarity, and the rule of law as foundations for sustainable peace and global stability, this session will explore how cities promote peacebuilding, social justice, and migrant inclusion through open dialogue and collaborative governance. It emphasizes expanding narratives beyond mainstream discourse to foster informed civil and political conversations that address root causes of conflict and advance lasting peace. The session will highlight innovative local approaches that strengthen peaceful, just, and inclusive communities.

Facilitator: Edgar Pieterse, African Centre for Cities (ACC)



Professor **Edgar Pieterse** is founding director of the African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town since 2007. He is a Board member of the Development Bank of Southern Africa; Co-Chair of the African Mayoral Leadership Initiative (AMALI); and Provost of the Norman Foster Institute. He works closely with numerous international organisations, think tanks and networks that advance the agenda of sustainable and just urbanism. His most recent co-authored book is: *Cities Rethought. A New Urban Disposition.* (Polity, 2025).

Rohey Malick Lowe, Mayor of Banjul, Gambia



Rohey Malick Lowe has become a trailblazer in Gambian politics as the first female mayor of the capital city. She was elected as the Mayor of the City of Banjul in May 2018 and was re-elected to the mayoral seat after a resounding victory at the hotly contested May 2023 polls. Her second term reaffirmed her popularity and the trust Banjulians placed in her leadership. Before entering politics, Rohey established successful businesses in the tourism sector across several African cities. Her entrepreneurial ventures deepened her understanding of economic development and prepared her for public service. This experience shaped her priorities in empowering women and youth through skills-building and entrepreneurship. Since coming into office, the mayor has spearheaded efforts to improve waste management systems and modernize public infrastructure, creating a cleaner and more sustainable city. An esteemed gender activist, she founded the Rohey Malick Lowe Women and Girls Empowerment Initiative that invests in women's financial independence and empowers youth to contribute to national socio-economic development. She is the 2nd Vice Chairperson of the Global Parliament of Mayors, President of the Network of Local Elected Women of Africa known by its French acronym Refela and 2nd Vice President of the United Democratic Party.



Mariëlle Vavie, Deputy Mayor of The Hague, Netherlands

Mariëlle Vavie is The Hague's Deputy Mayor for Poverty, Inclusion, Public Health and International Affairs. She previously worked as board secretary at Jeugdbescherming West, an institution for youth protection and youth probation. For her political party GroenLinks she has been, among other things, support group member for the GroenLinks provincial parliamentary group (2011 to 2015), representative for the GroenLinks municipal council group (2016 to 2018), GroenLinks municipal group chair (2021). In 2022 she was party leader for the municipal elections in The Hague. In September 2022, she was installed as Deputy Mayor for a period of four years.



Dilpreet Sidhu, Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles, United States

Dilpreet Sidhu is the Deputy Mayor of International Affairs for the City of Los Angeles, the second largest city in the United States. In this role, she advances Los Angeles' international relations, trade and investment, and preparations for major global events, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. She brings fifteen years of experience in foreign policy and national security, having served across two U.S. administrations in leadership positions at the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the National Security Council at the White House. Prior to her current appointment, she was Special Assistant to the President, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Executive Secretary of the National Security Council, where she managed and coordinated the President's principal advisory body on national security and foreign policy. Dilpreet holds a B.A. in English literature and religious studies from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Strategy and Statecraft Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Jesus Perez Sanchez, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR Senior Protection Officer

Main track Session 6: Title: "Resourcing Local Futures: Navigating Financial Challenges and Innovative Funding Solutions for Local Governments".

15:30 – 16:20

Ballroom 2

Host: U20 Conveners

This session will explore how cities can help reshape global financial systems to better support inclusive, care-driven development. It will call for stronger recognition of local governments in global finance, greater access to funding, and a shift in priorities toward climate, housing, and social protection. Echoing the outcomes of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), this session will explore ways forward for systemic reforms that address local financial exclusion and redirect global finance toward the needs of

communities. At the heart of this conversation is a political commitment to finance that serves humanity—one that redistributes resources fairly, empowers local governments, and invests in public services, care, and climate action.

Moderator: Mauricio Rodas, Urban SDG Commission



Mauricio Rodas is the former Mayor of Quito (2014–2019), where he oversaw the city’s first Metro line and advanced sustainability, equity, and economic development. He hosted the UN Habitat III Conference and held leadership roles in major global city networks (UCLG, C40, Global Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI). Currently, he is a Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Senior Advisor at the Atlantic Council Resilient Center, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration member, and co-chairs the SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance. He also leads Meridio Consulting, advising cities worldwide, and has supported Riyadh’s U20 and urban diplomacy efforts. Rodas is active on boards such as the WEF Global Commission on Nature-Positive Cities and the Global Parliament of Mayors, serves on the advisory network of Urban Partners, and has been a jury member for leading global sustainability awards. He is a former WEF Young Global Leader, recognized as one of the 100 Most Influential People on Climate Action by Apolitical, and recipient of awards from ICLEI and the University of Pennsylvania. He holds a JD (Universidad Católica de Quito) and master’s degrees in Government Administration and Political Science (University of Pennsylvania, Fulbright Scholar).

Ana Claudia Rossbach, UN-Habitat



Anacláudia Rossbach is the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and an economist with over 20 years of experience in housing, informal settlements, and urban policies. She was appointed Executive Director of UN-Habitat at the Under-Secretary-General level by the General Assembly, following nomination by the UN Secretary-General on 7 June 2024. Prior to this role, she was the Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and served as Regional Manager for Cities Alliance, where she founded the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub. Prior to that, with the World Bank, she oversaw the development and implementation of Brazilian housing and slum-upgrading policies. Ms. Rossbach has actively contributed to global urban policy discussions and has a strong academic presence in the field. She took office on 12 August 2024.

Councillor Dada Morero, Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa



Sello Enoch Dada Morero has served as the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg since his election in August 2024. Prior to assuming this role, he was the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Finance. He is also the regional chairperson of the African National Congress (ANC) in Johannesburg. With a career spanning public service, political leadership, and community advocacy, Morero envisions Johannesburg as a city of opportunity and excellence—a global leader in innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. His administration is focused on delivering a bold, transformative agenda. In 2025, Mayor Morero will co-host the U20 Summit in Johannesburg, bringing together global city leaders to tackle urban challenges. He also serves as President of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), further demonstrating his dedication to international cooperation and urban development. With a background in public service and anti-corruption, he has held various leadership roles in the City of Johannesburg since 2004. Mayor Morero holds multiple postgraduate qualifications.



Dr. Nasiphi Moya, Executive Mayor City of Tshwane, South Africa

Dr. Nasiphi Moya is the mayor of City of Tshwane. Cllr Moya joined ActionSA in 2021 as Chief Governance Director and was sworn in as a PR Councillor in Tshwane in January 2023. She rose swiftly through the ranks, serving as Deputy Mayor from January 2024 and was elected Executive Mayor of Tshwane on 9 October 2024. Cllr Nasiphi Moya is a seasoned public policy and governance expert with a strong academic foundation and a dynamic political career. She began her political journey at the University of Cape Town (UCT), where she earned a Bachelor of Social Science in Politics and Public Policy, followed by an Honours and a Master of Philosophy in Public Policy and Administration. She later obtained a PhD in Political Science from the University of the Western Cape in 2021. With a solid background in public administration, policy development, and political leadership, Cllr Moya brings academic depth, governance expertise, and a proven commitment to democratic transformation and effective service delivery.



Carola Schouten, Mayor of Rotterdam, Netherlands

Carola Schouten is the Mayor of Rotterdam, a position she assumed on 10 October 2024. A politician of the Christian Union (CU), she previously served as Third Deputy Prime Minister in both the third and fourth Rutte cabinets. From 2017 to 2022, she was Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, and later held the portfolio of Minister for Poverty Policy, Participation and Pensions until July 2024.

Mohan Vivekanandan, African Development Bank Group



Assoc Prof Mohan Vivekanandan supports the African Development Bank to increase its impact in the African municipal and sub-national sectors, as a senior advisor for urban infrastructure and municipal finance. He also is a member of the Development Bank of Southern Africa's (DBSA) Group Executive Committee, with accountability for pan-African deal origination/client management. The DBSA's mandate is sustainable infrastructure development and financing across the African continent. His teams concluded over 30 transactions worth ZAR16bn in the last financial year. Mohan's focus is the intersection of infrastructure and development finance. He is a member of the WEF Global Futures Council on Development Finance and the OECD-led Fast INFRA initiative. He is a board member of Invest Africa-US and previously the SADC Development Finance Centre. Mohan also serves as an adjunct professor of development finance at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business. Mohan holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management and an MSc in Global Finance from New York University Stern School of Business. He completed a BA (Honours) in Economics and Applied Mathematics from Northwestern University in Chicago, USA.

Parks Tau, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, South Africa



Mr. Mpho Parks Tau was appointed as Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition from 3 July 2024. He has been Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs from March 2023 to June 2024. He was Gauteng MEC for Economic Development from December 2020 to October 2022. Prior to that, he was Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs between May 2019 and December 2020. Tau has completed studies in Public Management from Regenesys Business School and holds a Master's degree in Public Policy & Management from the University of London. Parks Tau is a seasoned local government practitioner and a former executive mayor of the City of Johannesburg. Minister Tau has held numerous leadership roles throughout his career as a public representative, both nationally and internationally. He is a former president of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). He served as co-chairperson of the UN High-Level Independent Panel, established to oversee the effectiveness of the UN-Habitat programme, and was formerly the deputy chairperson of the UN Special Advisory Committee on Safer Cities. Minister Tau has also chaired the South African Cities Network and served as co-president of Metropolis, a global network of metropolitan cities committed to building resilience and sustainability. In addition, he is a member of the World Resources Institute, the Coalition for Urban Transitions, and the C40 Climate Change Network Steering Committee.

Main track Session 7: Title: "Local Economies as Engines of Inclusive Development: A New Vision for Governance and Informality through Equitable Climate Action and Public Service Provision".

16:30 – 17:30

Ballroom 2

Host: U20 Conveners

This session will highlight city-led governance, climate, and social solutions that place informal settlement dwellers and informal workers at the center—directly contributing to the G20 agenda of advancing sustainable development and reducing inequality. It will underscore the importance of including these communities in urban planning to promote social justice and enable a just transition. Informal workers and residents—particularly women, migrants, and youth—face heightened vulnerabilities due to their exclusion from basic services, adequate housing, and social protection. City leadership plays a vital role in recognising and engaging these groups in local policy processes, while multilevel collaboration opens new pathways to connect social protection, decent work, and sustainability through integrated and inclusive approaches. centre on improving the lives of informal settlement dwellers and informal workers,

Facilitator: Emilia Saiz, UCLG

Emilia Sáiz is Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). She has worked with the international movement of local and regional governments in different capacities since 1997, leading programmes and initiatives on institutional capacity building, the participation of women in local decision-making and decentralized cooperation. She played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and represented local and regional governments in international processes such as the Rio and Beijing +20, the Climate Agreement, SDGs and Habitat III and facilitated contributions from local constituencies to United Nations processes.



Thembisile Simelane, Minister of Human Settlements, South Africa

Ms Thembisile Simelane currently serves as South Africa's Minister of Human Settlements, following a distinguished trajectory in local and national government. A former student activist and seasoned public servant, she began her political career as Executive Mayor of Polokwane in 2014 and later led the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) as national president from 2019 to 2021. She entered national office in 2021 as Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), and went on to serve as Minister of CoGTA, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, and, since December 2024, Minister of Human Settlements. A committed advocate for responsive governance and institutional reform, Ms Simelane-Nkadimeng is a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee and National Working Committee and continues to champion inclusive urban development, municipal stability, and transformative housing policy in South Africa.



Facilitator: Anthony Okoth, C40 Cities

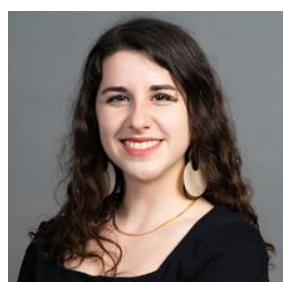


Mr **Anthony Okoth** is the Regional Director-Africa for C40 Cities. He has over 30 yrs working experience in private, public and development, of which 15 years of his experience had been in revolutionizing multimillion-dollar social and development sector operations and delivering groundbreaking solutions in multiple thematic areas including Health, Affordable Housing, and Climate Change. During this time, he has diversified funding through program (re)design and innovation, communications and branding and stakeholder development with major donors and African government leaders. He has worked with donors including FCDO, USAID, BMZ, ADH, AstraZeneca, GAVI, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Warren Buffet among others. Through these initiatives, he has helped create economic opportunities through market system development/shaping and strategic partnerships. In addition, he has facilitated policy shifts and collaborations. With internal teams, Anthony has helped to build collaborative and entrepreneurial cultures, created operational and financial efficiencies including starting social enterprises to diversify funding thus scaling impact.



Municipal Commissioner Banchhanidhi Pani, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation

Banchhanidhi Pani, is an experienced IAS officer. In 2025, he has assumed office as the Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) after recent administrative transfers. He has previously served in the same role in Surat, Bhavnagar, and Rajkot. He has extensive municipal administration experience.



Paula Sevilla Núñez, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

Paula Sevilla Núñez is a researcher on housing justice at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). Paula is passionate about tackling inequality and building equitable and peaceful societies through inclusive urban policy. She is also committed to developing a more effective multilateral system. She specialises in conducting applied policy analysis on issues such as housing inequality and financialisation, local governance, and effective multilateral action for more sustainable, fairer and caring cities. In her work, she facilitates multi-stakeholder engagements to catalyse impactful partnerships for sustainable development at the local, national and international level. Paula is also part of IIED's efforts to engage with Majority World philanthropy to address global funding challenges and unjust power dynamics in multilateral spaces. She is helping convene partnerships with philanthropy and civil society networks around processes such as the G20 and the Financing for Development Forum to advance social justice in global financing conversations.



Luyanda Hlatshwayo, African Reclaimers Organisation (ARO)

Luyanda Hlatshwayo serves as Stakeholder Engagement and Expert Advisor at the African Reclaimers Organisation (ARO). A founding member of the organisation, he has long represented informal waste reclaimers in Johannesburg and currently serves as Vice Chairperson and spokesperson. He is also an active member of the International Alliance of Waste Pickers, where he has been engaged since 2010. With more than a decade of experience as a waste reclamation worker and advocate, Luyanda has participated in global and regional events, including international negotiation processes, and has consulted for organisations such as C40 Cities. His work highlights the crucial role of informal workers in advancing climate action, aligning with Johannesburg's commitment to supporting informal waste workers.

PARTNER TRACK 1:

Track 1 Session 1: Title: "The Urban Frontier: Megacities and City Regions as Engines of National and Global Transformation".

09:00 – 09:50

Ballroom 1

Host: SA Cities Network

The session aims to elevate the strategic role of megacities and city regions as transformative platforms for national prosperity and global sustainability. It seeks to promote a shared understanding among city leaders, policymakers, and global partners of how integrated urban-regional systems can unlock economic opportunity, climate resilience, and inclusive development. Through a combination of city leadership insights, international case studies, and systems-level analysis, the session will encourage bold urban governance reforms and inter-municipal collaboration.



Facilitator: Nosipho Hlatshwayo, South African Cities Network

Nosipho Hlatshwayo is the CEO of the South African Cities Network (SACN). SACN is a platform for cities and partners to collaborate. The SACN's focus is on promoting good governance, enhancing urban productivity, and addressing urban challenges through research, knowledge sharing, and peer learning. Nosipho is an urbanist with extensive experience in strategy development and implementation. Her focus is program development and evaluation across different sectors, including the built environment, finance, social services and economics in public, private and non-profit industries

Philip Harrison, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa



Philip Harrison is a Research Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of Witwatersrand. He served as a member of the National Planning Commission from 2010 to 2015. Previously, Prof. Harrison was Executive Director in Development Planning and Urban Management at the City of Johannesburg from 2006 to 2010, and the South African Research Chair in Spatial Analysis and City Planning, funded by the National Research Foundation for 15 years. Before that, he held academic positions at the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Natal, including Professor and Chair of Urban and Regional Planning at Wits from 2001 to 2006. He has published widely in the fields of city planning and regional and urban development with his latest books being *Governing Complex City-Regions in the Twenty-First Century: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa* (Wits University Press, 2023) and, together with Professor Alison Todes, *The Promise of Planning: Global Aspirations and South African Experience* since 2008 (Routledge, 2024)

Ambassador Mustafa Osman Turan, Istanbul, Turkey



Mustafa Osman Turan has been serving as the Foreign Relations Advisor to the Mayor of Istanbul since April 2023. Turan joined the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1992 following his studies in international relations at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. He has masters degree on European politics at the College of Europe in Bruges. As a career diplomat, he served at the Turkish missions in Italy, Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Austria, Afghanistan, Belgium and finally in Bangladesh as Ambassador. He decided to get retired early in April 2023. Turan also considers himself as a social architect. His passion is to build communities of trust and impactful action.

Jordi Vaquer, Metropolis



On the 16th of April 2022, **Jordi Vaquer** took on the role of Secretary General of Metropolis, the global network of large cities and metropolitan areas, becoming the seventh to lead the organisation throughout its more than 35 years of history. He had a long professional career in international relations within Public Administration, applied research, academia, and non-profit organisations. With a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics, before working at Open Society Foundations, Jordi Vaquer was the director of CIDOB, the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, one of Southern Europe's leading international relations think tanks. Before that, he worked at the Department of International Relations of the Government of Catalonia (Spain). He is an Associate Professor at IBEI, the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals, where he has been teaching for more than a decade. He was also a columnist for the Spanish newspaper *El País* (2011-2014), and often offers media commentary on international affairs.

Track 1 Session 2: Title: “Green Construction Value Chains and Decent Jobs”

10:00 – 10:50

Ballroom 1

Host: African Centre of Cities (ACC)

The session seeks to advance a mindset shift in how we think about the economic and environmental underpinnings of pursuing the construction of affordable housing and commercial buildings, especially for rapidly growing economies and populations. Participants will be presented with evidence and policy argument that demonstrates the importance and viability of this agenda, sparking action across the Urban20 cities and the various city networks participating. Furthermore, speakers will offer examples of practical actions happening in their cities that demonstrate the viability of the alternative building technologies (ABT) agenda, driven by city governments in partnership with national/federal government policies in the domains of green industrialisation, research, development and innovation and skills development.

Facilitator: Edgar Pieterse, African Centre for Cities (ACC)

Professor Edgar Pieterse is founding director of the African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town since 2007. He is a Board member of the Development Bank of Southern Africa; Co-Chair of the African Mayoral Leadership Initiative (AMALI); and Provost of the Norman Foster Institute. He works closely with numerous international organisations, think tanks and networks that advance the agenda of sustainable and just urbanism. His most recent co-authored book is: *Cities Rethought. A New Urban Disposition.* (Polity, 2025).

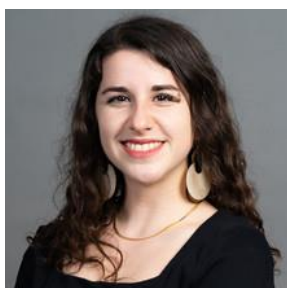


Chandra Farley, Atlanta, United States of America

Chandra Farley serves as Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Atlanta. In this role, Chandra sets direction for the City's sustainability and resilience goals and leads the interdepartmental, and community-wide, engagement necessary to address the inequitable effects of climate change. Chandra's charge is the development of a comprehensive climate resilience strategy that will address energy insecurity, healthy housing, food systems, waste diversion, building decarbonization, workforce training, and fleet electrification while advancing the City's goal to achieve 100% clean energy for 100% of Atlantans by 2035. Chandra is also developing the strategy to leverage the historic federal investment in clean energy and the Justice40 Initiative to advance these goals through a lens of environmental justice. Prior to joining the City, Chandra founded ReSolve Consulting, an energy justice consulting firm and the "Good Energy Project," a social space connecting the transformational power of Black Women and their community leadership to the movement for an equitable clean energy economy. In 2022, Chandra completed a historic run for the Georgia Public Service Commission.



Paula Sevilla Núñez, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)



Paula Sevilla Núñez is a researcher on housing justice at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). Paula is passionate about tackling inequality and building equitable and peaceful societies through inclusive urban policy. She is also committed to developing a more effective multilateral system. She specialises in conducting applied policy analysis on issues such as housing inequality and financialisation, local governance, and effective multilateral action for more sustainable, fairer and caring cities. In her work, she facilitates multi-stakeholder engagements to catalyse impactful partnerships for sustainable development at the local, national and international level. Paula is also part of IIED's efforts to engage with Majority World philanthropy to address global funding challenges and unjust power dynamics in multilateral spaces. She is helping convene partnerships with philanthropy and civil society networks around processes such as the G20 and the Financing for Development Forum to advance social justice in global financing conversations.

Mirjam van Donk, Isandla Institute



Mirjam van Donk is the Director of Isandla Institute. She is an urban land planner with a Masters degree from the Development Planning Unit at University College London. She also holds a Masters degree in Theology from the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. Mirjam has worked and written extensively on local government, urban governance, human settlements, development planning, gender and HIV/AIDS. She has expertise in managing complex projects and teams, programme design and institutional transformation.

Track 1 Session 3 & 4: Title: “Enhancing Local Action for Delivery of Adequate Housing”.

11:00 – 13:00

Ballroom 1

Host: UN Habitat & SALGA

The session objectives include 1) an understand of how cities can promote and implement practical housing solutions that simultaneously foster social inclusion, leverage innovative financing, and integrate digital technology; 2) identify the support local leaders and governments critically need from national governments, the international community, banks and IFIs, to be able to accelerate access to adequate housing, particularly for the bottom 40% and 3) Local governments are empowered to implement and champion practical, actionable steps toward creating sustainable housing strategies at the local level, integrating innovative finance and digital technologies. A summary of recommendations will be prepared for further integration into the overall outcomes of Urban20 2025, in addition to continued advocacy and mobilization through the G20 forum and the 13th World Urban Forum in Baku.

Moderator: Anaclaudia Rossbach, UN-Habitat



Anacláudia Rossbach is the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and an economist with over 20 years of experience in housing, informal settlements, and urban policies. She was appointed Executive Director of UN-Habitat at the Under-Secretary-General level by the General Assembly, following nomination by the UN Secretary-General on 7 June 2024. Prior to this role, she was the Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and served as Regional Manager for Cities Alliance, where she founded the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub. Prior to that, with the World Bank, she oversaw the development and implementation of Brazilian housing and slum-upgrading policies. Ms. Rossbach has actively contributed to global urban policy discussions and has a strong academic presence in the field. She took office on 12 August 2024.



Sithole Mbanga, CEO - SALGA

Sithole Mbanga, CEO of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), is a highly respected thought leader in the local government sector with over two decades of experience advancing the urban development agenda. Previously CEO of the South African Cities Network (SACN), he played a key role in strengthening urban governance and municipal development. He has also held leadership roles in the National Business Initiative, contributing to national policy on Integrated Development Planning, and was part of the Local Government Transformation Programme that pioneered South Africa's democratic municipal system. Known for his dynamic and solutions-driven approach, Sithole has advised political and municipal leadership, served on prominent boards such as the Mandela Bay Development Agency and SANParks, and contributed to strategic initiatives across government sectors and as Deputy Secretary-General of UCLG Africa.



Councillor Zandile Myeni, Deputy Mayor of eThekweni, South Africa

Zandile Myeni is the Deputy Mayor and Chairperson of Security and Emergency Services Committee for eThekweni Metropolitan City. She was elected as Deputy Mayor in April 2023. Myeni holds a Bachelor of Education studies from the University of Zululand. As a passionate and dedicated community worker and leader, she has served in various leadership roles. From 2003-2004, she served as the Student Representative Council Deputy President at the University of Zululand. She has also led the South African Democratic Student Movement (SADESMO). She actively participated in the first KwaZulu-Natal Youth Council. Furthermore, Deputy Mayor Myeni is the former Secretary-General for the Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa (URCSA) Christian Movement. She is also the URCSA church council member. Besides being an educator by profession, she is also the former eThekweni Regional Secretary and site steward for the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU).



Tobia Zevi, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Patrimony Municipality of Rome, Italy

Tobia Zevi has always been active in his community, combining political engagement with civic and social commitment. He has held various institutional roles, working at the Province of Rome, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Presidency of the Council. As the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Patrimony of Rome, he is addressing some crucial challenges for the city, including the digitalization and census of municipal properties, a new housing plan to fight housing poverty, the opening of public assets to increase services to citizens, the urban regeneration of large municipal owned complexes and the management of state-owned maritime property. He is also responsible for the Global Cities Program at the Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) in Milan: an observatory on the most populous and influential metropolises on the planet, which constitutes a privileged point of view on the new challenges of global cities and on good practices.



Edinelson Silva de Lima, District Mayor of the City of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Edinelson Silva de Lima holds a degree in Public Management and began his career in public service in 2002 through the “Jovens pela Paz” (Youth for Peace) project. This social initiative was pivotal in shaping his lifelong commitment to citizenship and the promotion of rights, values that have guided his entire professional journey. Over the years, Edinelson has built extensive political experience, having served as an advisor, Chief of Staff, and senior aide in the office of Mayor Eduardo Paes, as well as Coordinator of Articulation in the Mayor’s Office. Currently, Edinelson Silva serves as District Mayor of West Zone III, a position that enables him to implement localized solutions to urban challenges. He plays a leading role in understanding and addressing the diverse needs of his community while coordinating efforts among different stakeholders to deliver contextual housing solutions. His deep knowledge of the realities of West Zone uniquely positions him to contribute to urban development issues, such as promoting social inclusion and equity through adequate and affordable housing, leveraging economic opportunities with innovative financing, and integrating digital transformation and innovation into evidence-based housing planning and delivery. His commitment is essential to advancing stability, dignity, health, and safety through adequate housing, contributing to poverty reduction and the integration of new residents into urban areas.



Mr. Paul-David Regnier, U20 Sherpa Paris, France

Born in 1971, Mr. **Paul-David Regnier** holds a master's degree in economic history and is an associate professor of geography. He taught in high school from 1997 to 1999, before enrolling as a cadet at the Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan Special Military School (IV Battalion). Platoon commander at the French Defense intelligence agency (2000-2003), then commander, head of the geographic analysis section within the same agency (2003-2006), he served as lieutenant colonel, head of the geospatial analysis service (2006-2007), before being assigned to the director of military intelligence (2007-2008). From March-October 2008, he held the position of executive VP, in charge of international development and strategy of MASA Group, then deputy VP of International Public Affairs of Total SA from 2009 to 2012, and director of Institutional

Relations at Total Marketing & Services (2012-2014). He held the position of project Manager for the Marketing & Services Division (2014), then Director of Major Strategic Accounts for Total Marketing & Services and Energies Nouvelles (2015-2016). In June 2016, he joined the team of Mayor Hidalgo at Paris City Hall where he was successively advisor on prevention, security, memory, military affairs, veterans, and religions to the Mayor of Paris (2016-2017), Chief of Staff of Mayor Hidalgo from August 2017 to June 2019, and then special advisor to the latter (2019-2020). Since October 2020, he is Mayor Hidalgo's diplomatic advisor and director of the International Relations Department of the City of Paris.

Mr. Nelson Muffuh, UN Resident Coordinator in South Africa



Nelson Muffuh is the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in South Africa. He assumed office in December 2022 following his appointment by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Before this role, Mr. Muffuh, a Cameroonian national, served as the Chief of Staff, Head of Office, and Principal Strategic Adviser to UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General since February 2017. In this capacity, he managed staff in the Deputy Secretary-General's Office, focusing on repositioning the UN development system and strengthening the Resident Coordinators system. As a strategic coordinator and policy adviser, Mr. Muffuh played a key role in guiding the UN's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, organizing summits on Financing for Development and Climate Action. He also coordinated the Global Crisis Group's efforts on the UN's response to the war in Ukraine and the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Prior to joining the DSG's Office, Mr. Muffuh shaped and coordinated partnership engagements, contributing to the formulation of strategies for the post-2015 development policy, resulting in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its accompanying SDGs. Throughout his UN career at regional and country levels and at the UN Secretariat, he gained extensive experience in program coordination, management, partnerships, communications, stakeholder engagement, advocacy, and mobilization. Before his UN career, Mr. Muffuh served in various roles, including Senior Programme and Advocacy Adviser for Christian Aid (London), Programme Coordinator for the African Liberal Network and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (Africa/UK), and Programme Coordinator for Transparency International (Berlin). A political and international relations expert, as well as an international development specialist, Mr. Muffuh is a graduate of Freie Universität Berlin in Germany and Sussex University in the United Kingdom. He is married with two children.

Ald. Xolani Sotashe, Chairperson of Human settlement and Urban Agenda Working Group, SALGA



Alderman Xolani Sotashe holds an Honours Degree in Public Administration and is pursuing a Master's degree in public administration. He has served as a councillor in the City of Cape Town since December 2000, with nearly 25 years of local government experience. He has contributed to multiple portfolio in the City of Cape Town, including Urban Mobility, Spatial Planning, Human Settlement, Finance, as well as Rules and Ethics. He is currently the chairperson of the City's Sub-Council 09. Since 2017, he has been a member of SALGA's National Executive Committee, where he is currently chairperson of the National Working Group on Human Settlement and Urban Agenda. He is recognized for his seasoned leadership and commitment to public service.

Track 1 Session 5: Title: "Global Perspectives on Enhancing Urban Living: The Role of Quality-of-Life Surveys in Shaping Sustainable Cities".

14:30 – 15:20

Ballroom 1

Host: Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO)

This session will illustrate how the perceptions of residents contribute critically to the ability to design policies that will prove effective and to remain responsive to evolving government and societal priorities. This topic is timely because of the global recognition that subjective well-being and happiness, along with the more traditional 'objective' measures of well-being, such as income and access to services, are important in the Global South. The session also highlights how locally applicable survey data can equip local leaders with actionable insights.

Graeme Gotz, Gauteng City-Region Observatory



Graeme Gotz is the Director of Research at the Gauteng City-Region Observatory, overseeing its research agenda. Previously, he served in the Central Strategy Unit for the City of Johannesburg, where he developed notable strategies, including the 2006 Growth and Development Strategy. He worked as a consultant for four years, authoring the 2004 State of South African Cities Report. His earlier experience includes managing the Local Government Programme at the University of the Witwatersrand and research at the Centre for Policy Studies. His academic interests lie in city development, urban renewal, and local government

Shamsunisaa Miles-Timotheus, Gauteng City-Region Observatory



Shamsunisaa Miles-Timotheus joined the GCRO in 2023 to assist with the Quality of Life (QoL) 7 survey project. She was appointed as a Junior Researcher for the Understanding Quality of Life theme in 2024. Shamsunisaa obtained her Master of Health Demography from the Department of Demography and Population Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2021. She also holds an Honours in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Sociology) from the University of the Witwatersrand. Her master's research was a retrospective analysis of risky sexual behaviour histories, focusing on the relationship between HIV knowledge and consistency of condom use among youth in South Africa. She is strongly interested

in sexual health research and Quality of Life Studies and believes that much remains to be understood and analysed within the South African context.



Dr Pedzisai Ndagurwa, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

Pedzisai Ndagurwa is a Senior Lecturer in Demography and Population Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Holding a Ph.D. from Wits, his research focuses on fertility transitions, household structures, and quality of life in sub-Saharan Africa. Proficient in both quantitative and qualitative data analysis tools, Dr. Ndagurwa has contributed to numerous publications and international conferences, including the 2024 ISQOLS conference. His work provides valuable insights into the socio-demographic dynamics shaping African communities.

Track 1 Session 6: Title: “Pioneering Smart Transport that is Climate Resilient, Sustainable and fosters Inclusive Growth”

15:30 – 16:20

Ballroom1

Host: Rivonia Circle and Nedbank

As cities expand and digital transformation accelerates, the urgency for smart, sustainable transport grows. This session explores how integrated, technology-driven mobility systems can cut emissions, enhance accessibility—especially for underserved communities—and support resilient urban development. The discussion will centre how cities can embed smart transport into the urban agenda through practical initiatives such as fleet electrification, data-driven urban planning, and public-private partnerships. With a focus on strategic action and global cooperation, the session highlights that smart transport is more than an eco-conscious trend—it is a strategic commitment to inclusive economic growth, urban resilience, and a more connected, climate-smart future.



Facilitator: Anazi Piper

Anazi Zote Piper is the Founder of Kenya.AI, a strategic communications and events consultancy that helps brands and platforms across Africa tell their stories, connect with the right partners, and scale their influence. With over a decade of experience in public relations, live events, sponsorship, and content creation, Anazi has worked with leading industry platforms including Enlit Africa, Africa’s Green Economy Summit, and Smarter Mobility Africa. An experienced journalist, event strategist, and content specialist, she offers expertise in PR, event coordination, live event production, content planning, copywriting, and editing. Drawing on a global track record, Anazi crafts compelling narratives and delivers impactful experiences that elevate brands and engage audiences across diverse industry sectors.

Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, Minister of Electricity and Energy, South Africa



Dr Kgosientsho David Ramokgopa was appointed as Minister of Electricity and Energy from 3 July 2024. He was previously Minister of Electricity from 6 March 2023 to 19 June 2024. Prior to his appointment as Minister, he was Head of the Investment and Infrastructure office in the office of the President of the Republic of South Africa and the Head of Infrastructure South Africa. Dr Ramokgopa is also an appointed Professor of Practice of the University of Johannesburg in the School of Public Management, Governance and Public Policy. Prior to this, Dr Ramokgopa was Gauteng MEC (Member of Executive Committee) for Economic Development, Agriculture and Environment. Previously, he has held the position of Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane between 2010 and 2016, at the time he was one of the youngest Mayors of a Metropolitan in the country.

Sasank Vemuri, MobiliseYourCity,



Sasank Vemuri is the Coordinator of the Global Secretariat for the MobiliseYourCity Partnership in Brussels, Belgium. Before joining the MobiliseYourCity Secretariat in May 2019, Sasank worked for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) since 2013. In his last position at the ADB as an Urban Development Specialist in the South East Asia Urban and Water Division, he was responsible for overseeing the implementation of infrastructure investments and technical assistance in Vietnam and Laos of approximately \$300 million. Prior to joining the ADB Sasank prepared pre-feasibility studies for climate change related infrastructure projects with the Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA), where he led the CDIA portfolio for India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Kyrgyzstan. Before moving into the urban infrastructure finance space, Sasank lived and worked with GIZ in India for 6 years, where he spent most of the time advising the Indian rural development bank on developing new financing products for projects related to sustainable resource use. Sasank is a father, a committed development professional, an economist, and an American. In addition to Belgium, he has also lived in worked in Vietnam, Philippines, India, Germany and the United States.

Track 1 Session 7 Title: “Establishment of an African Think Tank on Urban Management”.

16:30 – 17:30

Ballroom 1

Host: City of Tshwane

This session will introduce the vision and strategic relevance of establishing an African Think Tank on Urban Management, building on the discussions from the Urban 20 Summit in Tshwane in June. It will explore how the think tank can address Africa’s unique urban challenges through policy-driven research, knowledge exchange, and strategic alliances. Speakers will discuss its core focus areas, what sets it apart from existing institutions, potential funding models, and the urgent issues it must address. The session will also invite input on its structure and priorities, laying the foundation for a collaborative, African-led platform that empowers cities to drive inclusive and sustainable urban development.



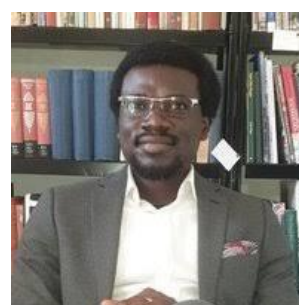
Facilitator: Nosipho Hlatshwayo, South African Cities Network

Nosipho Hlatshwayo is the CEO of the South African Cities Network (SACN). SACN is a platform for cities and partners to collaborate. The SACN's focus is on promoting good governance, enhancing urban productivity, and addressing urban challenges through research, knowledge sharing, and peer learning. Nosipho is an urbanist with extensive experience in strategy development and implementation. Her focus is program development and evaluation across different sectors, including the built environment, finance, social services and economics in public, private and non-profit industries



Dr. Nasiphi Moya, Executive Mayor City of Tshwane, South Africa

Dr. Nasiphi Moya is the mayor of City of Tshwane. Cllr Moya joined ActionSA in 2021 as Chief Governance Director and was sworn in as a PR Councillor in Tshwane in January 2023. She rose swiftly through the ranks, serving as Deputy Mayor from January 2024 and was elected Executive Mayor of Tshwane on 9 October 2024. Cllr Nasiphi Moya is a seasoned public policy and governance expert with a strong academic foundation and a dynamic political career. She began her political journey at the University of Cape Town (UCT), where she earned a Bachelor of Social Science in Politics and Public Policy, followed by an Honours and a Master of Philosophy in Public Policy and Administration. She later obtained a PhD in Political Science from the University of the Western Cape in 2021. With a solid background in public administration, policy development, and political leadership, Cllr Moya brings academic depth, governance expertise, and a proven commitment to democratic transformation and effective service delivery.



Dr. Taiwo Afinowi

Dr. Taiwo Afinowi is a professional architect, urban practitioner, and built environment researcher. He is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Public Policy Hub and Chair in Municipal Finance at the University of Pretoria, and previously held a fellowship with the Hatfield Digital Twin City Initiative. He also serves as a part-time Senior Lecturer at the University of Pretoria. His work focuses on architecture, housing, and urban planning, with a passion for translating research and development agendas into sustainable, inclusive cities. He is particularly committed to advancing the future of African cities through digital transformation and global South perspectives.

Prof Mauricio Rodas



Prof Mauricio Rodas is the former Mayor of Quito (2014–2019), where he oversaw the city’s first Metro line and advanced sustainability, equity, and economic development. He hosted the UN Habitat III Conference and held leadership roles in major global city networks (UCLG, C40, Global Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI). Currently, he is a Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Senior Advisor at the Atlantic Council Resilient Center, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration member, and co-chairs the SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance. He also leads Meridio Consulting, advising cities worldwide, and has supported Riyadh’s U20 and urban diplomacy efforts. Rodas is active on boards such as the WEF Global Commission on Nature-Positive Cities and the Global Parliament of Mayors, serves on the advisory network of Urban Partners, and has been a jury member for leading global sustainability awards. He is a former WEF Young Global Leader, recognized as one of the 100 Most Influential People on Climate Action by Apolitical, and recipient of awards from ICLEI and the University of Pennsylvania. He holds a JD (Universidad Católica de Quito) and master’s degrees in Government Administration and Political Science (University of Pennsylvania, Fulbright Scholar).



Prof Edgar Pieterse, African Centre for Cities (ACC)

Prof Edgar Pieterse is founding director of the African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town since 2007. He is a Board member of the Development Bank of Southern Africa; Co-Chair of the African Mayoral Leadership Initiative (AMALI); and Provost of the Norman Foster Institute. He works closely with numerous international organisations, think tanks and networks that advance the agenda of sustainable and just urbanism. His most recent co-authored book is: *Cities Rethought. A New Urban Disposition*. (Polity, 2025).

PARTNER TRACK 2

Track 2 Session 1: Title: “From Goals to Impact: Advancing Urban Sustainability and Resilience Through the SDGs”.

09:00 – 09:50

Ballroom 3

Host: South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

This session highlights the urgent need for cities to move from planning to measurable impact as the 2030 Agenda deadline approaches. With urban areas at the forefront of tackling inequality, climate change, and service delivery, the discussion will explore how SDGs are being embedded into city planning through IDPs, data, peer learning, and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). Convened by SALGA and partners, the session will showcase practical approaches, case studies, and collaborative tools that help cities overcome barriers of funding, data, and institutional support, while strengthening local leadership, partnerships, and innovative finance. Participants will gain actionable strategies and insights to accelerate SDG delivery, foster inclusion, and shape resilient, community-driven urban development.



Facilitator: Ms. Gloria Kiondo, UNDP South Africa Country Office

Ms. Gloria Kiondo is a seasoned development professional and senior UN official, currently serving as the Deputy Resident Representative at UNDP South Africa. She brings over 12 years of international experience in programme design, results-based management, risk mitigation, and operational oversight across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. In her current role, she leads the implementation of strategic programmes and operations aligned with South Africa's national development priorities. She was Head of Programme Oversight and Quality Assurance in Somalia, ensuring programme integrity and compliance in a complex operational environment. Ms Kiondo has also held leadership positions in UNDP Tanzania, where for seven years she managed strategic and programme support units, and has contributed to UNDP efforts in Kenya, Eritrea, Laos, and regional hubs in Addis Ababa and Bangkok. Her cross-regional expertise—spanning RBA, RBAS, and RBAP—has driven programme innovation, institutional strengthening, and capacity development across the organisation. She holds a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Dar es Salaam, a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, and an MSc in International Development from the University of Birmingham. legislation.



SALGA Deputy President Cllr Flora Maboa-Boltman

Ms. Flora Maboa-Boltman hails from Kinross in Mpumalanga, South Africa, is the Deputy President of The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the former Chairperson of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Women's Commission, a role held from 2020-2022. She currently serves at the Gert Sibande District Municipality. The SALGA Women's Commission was established in 2010 under the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) initiative to promote gender equality within local governments across Africa. The Commission's work advocates for women's voices in local governance, supporting national, regional, and global goals for women's empowerment, gender equality, and equity.

Dr. Nasiphi Moya, Executive Mayor City of Tshwane, South Africa



Dr. Nasiphi Moya is the mayor of City of Tshwane. Cllr Moya joined ActionSA in 2021 as Chief Governance Director and was sworn in as a PR Councillor in Tshwane in January 2023. She rose swiftly through the ranks, serving as Deputy Mayor from January 2024 and was elected Executive Mayor of Tshwane on 9 October 2024. Cllr Nasiphi Moya is a seasoned public policy and governance expert with a strong academic foundation and a dynamic political career. She began her political journey at the University of Cape Town (UCT), where she earned a Bachelor of Social Science in Politics and Public Policy, followed by an Honours and a Master of Philosophy in Public Policy and Administration. She later obtained a PhD in Political Science from the University of the Western Cape in 2021. With a solid background in public administration, policy development, and political leadership, Cllr Moya brings academic depth, governance expertise, and a proven commitment to democratic transformation and effective service delivery.



Dr. Angela Gandra, U20 Sherpa São Paulo, Brazil

Dr. Angela Gandra is secretary of international affairs of *São Paulo City Hall* Graduate degree in Law at the University of São Paulo (USP). Master's degree in philosophy of law at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). Doctor's degree in Philosophy of Law at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). Visiting professor and researcher on Legal and Philosophical Anthropology at Harvard University. Certified in public examination to teach Roman Law (UFPR) and Introduction to the Philosophy of Law (UFRGS). Ex-partner at the Gandra Martins Law Firm. Member at the Superior Council of Law in FECOMERCIO. Member of the Brazilian Academy of Philosophy. Member of the Legal Letters Academy of São Paulo. Professor at the CEU Law School. President of the Ives Gandra Institute of Law, Philosophy and Economy. National Secretary of the Family at the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights of Brazil.



Ms. Sibylle Loyeau, Connective Cities

Ms. Sibylle Loyeau has extensive experience in international development cooperation and migration with a strong focus on municipal partnerships and local-level initiatives. Since 2020, she has been working with Engagement Global's Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) on projects such as Connective Cities and municipal partnerships with the Maghreb. From 2015 to 2019, she specialized in the integration of migrants in Germany, gaining hands-on experience in EU-funded projects and NGOs. Earlier in her career (2004–2010), she worked with the German Development Agency (DED/GTZ, now GIZ) in Western Africa (Mali and Burkina Faso) and Southern Africa (Mozambique), focusing on international development cooperation. Sibylle holds a Master of Arts in History and a master's degree in economics from Paris, France.



Ms. Verena Schwarte, City of Bonn

Ms. Verena Schwarte works at the Department of International Affairs and Global Sustainability at the City of Bonn, coordinating international city-to-city relations and related projects with partner cities. Furthermore, she is engaged in the municipal activities for the localisation of Agenda 2030 in Bonn, such as coordinating the consultation-process to develop Bonn's first sustainability strategy and projects on SDG-reporting, e.g. the publication of Bonn's two Voluntary Local Reviews in 2020 and 2022 and the development of a sustainability dashboard. Prior to this, she worked for more than 12 years for different non-governmental organizations, both in head offices in Germany and in West and East Africa. She has worked mainly in project management in the areas of agriculture, women's rights and health. Verena Schwarte studied Economics in Bonn, Bath (UK) and Trier and holds a diploma in Economics with a specialization in international relations and development. She has completed post-graduate university courses in Sustainable Development and Municipal Sustainability Management.



Sibusiso Mazomba, South African Institute of International Affairs

Mr. Sibusiso Mazomba is an undergraduate Oceanography, and Environmental & Geographical Science student at the University of Cape Town. As an intersectional climate change activist with interest in youth participation in policy and decision-making, he is part of the Youth Policy Committee in the Climate Change Working Group with the Youth Programmes at the South African Institute of International Affairs (Youth@SAIIA) where he creates and lobbies for responsive policies to the climate change crisis through an intersectional lens that recognises the non-neutrality of climate impacts and their relation to gender, youth and other of socio-economic issues in South Africa. He is the African Climate Alliance's Junior Cancel Coal Campaigner where he is leading a task force of young people that are calling for the government to end new fossil fuel investments.

Track 2 Session 2: Title: "Finance Your Cities: Sub-national Development Banks & Country Platforms for Localizing Finance".

10:00 – 10:50

Ballroom 3

Host: Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)

This session will contribute directly to the U20 Communiqué's finance chapter by showcasing implementable pathways for predictable and needs-based concessional funding; direct and intermediary-based financing solutions; enabling environments for urban investment platforms and scalable models of collaboration between cities, public development banks, national public and private stakeholders and development partners.

Facilitator: Carlos de Freitas, FMDV – Global Fund for Cities Development



Carlos de Freitas has over 25 years of experience advising and collaborating with ministers, mayors, governors, CEOs of national and subnational development banks, and other high-level decision-makers worldwide. Since 2011, he has served as co-Director of FMDV-Global Fund for Cities Development, focusing on designing and implementing multistakeholder urban finance strategies, programs, and advocacy at key global platforms, including the UN Climate Summits (COPs), Financing for Development conferences, Habitat, and the UNSG SDG and Climate Summits. As FMDV's Executive Director since April 2023, he gives continuity to the influential pilot programmes developed and implemented by the network, especially on the « Finance Your Cities » Country Platforms for Localizing Finance.



Mayor Harilala Ramanantsoa, Antananarivo, Madagascar

Harilala Ramanantsoa is a Madagascan entrepreneur and politician, founder of the Madavision group and committed to various social causes. First elected as a city councillor in Antananarivo in 2015, she briefly held the position of president of the capital's special delegation at the end of 2024, replacing the resigning mayor. She was elected mayor of Antananarivo in January 2025, with 43.24% of the votes.



Mojabeng Monyamane, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)

Mojabeng Monyamane is the Coverage Head: Municipal Sectors at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). DBSA is a state-owned development bank with a mandate to develop, finance and implement sustainable infrastructure projects in sub-Saharan Africa. The Bank's municipal mandate includes the provision of funding and non-funding support to municipalities and provincial government, water boards as well as economic zones. Its priority infrastructure classes include water and sanitation, bulk services, renewable energy value chain and digitalisation, as part of a smart cities. DBSA utilises both on and off balance-sheet funding structures including private sector partnerships.

Ben Mokheseng, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)



Ben Mokheseng leads the Municipalities and Water Boards Team in DBSA's Transacting Division, where he originates, structures, and finances city-scale infrastructure across South Africa. Trained in development finance and sustainable development (both at Stellenbosch, the latter cum laude), with additional credentials in project management and education, he combines technical depth with public-sector fluency. Ben previously oversaw South Africa's development finance institutions at National Treasury—shaping governance and institutional models for infrastructure finance—after research roles at CSIR and early-career teaching in maths and physical sciences. He is a practitioner-scholar with a strong record in capacity building for under-resourced municipalities.

Issa Kassis, Mayor of Ramallah, Palestine



Issa Kassis, the mayor of Ramallah, was elected in the first quarter of 2022. Resilience and sustainable development expert and practitioner. A banker and financial expert, started his career with HSBC, moved between Jordan and Palestine in several senior financial positions. Kassis served as CEO for The Palestine Mortgage and Housing Corp, advisor to the Governor and board member at the Palestine Monetary Authority, financial advisor at Palestine Investment Fund, PIF, for SME loans guarantee fund and affordable housing, Kassis established two Fintech startups in 2020 & 2021. Ambassador of the UCLG Pact for future – Ambassador for the Future of Government. Board member and treasurer of the Metropolis Network. Board member at Palestine Pension Fund Authority. Kassis served on the boards of many public and private companies, schools and universities. Mayor Kassis was born in Jerusalem, raised in diaspora and returned in 2001 to serve his country / Palestine. Kassis is married and has two daughters. He earned his International Executive MBA from Kellogg / Northwestern University - Chicago and has an undergraduate degree in finance and banking.

Track 2 Session 3: Title: "From City Halls to Global Halls: City diplomacy and global governance".

11:00 – 11:50

Ballroom 3

Host: Metropolis

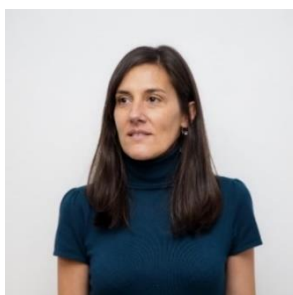
This session will offer valuable context and analysis to support the refinement and strengthening of city diplomacy strategies. It will help identify key entry points and best practices for international advocacy, enabling attendees to engage more effectively with multilateral institutions, processes, and agendas. By exploring how cities can better align their local priorities and political leadership with an evolving global landscape, the session will support more coherent, strategic, and impactful city diplomacy. Participants will also gain insights into how to navigate shifting global governance dynamics, collaborate through city networks, and contribute to shaping common agendas—particularly in areas such as financing for development and climate action. The session is designed to be both reflective and practical, equipping city diplomats and practitioners with the tools to enhance their influence and effectiveness on the international stage.

Facilitator: Jordi Vaquer, Metropolis



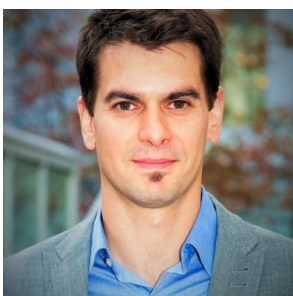
On the 16th of April 2022, **Jordi Vaquer** took on the role of Secretary General of Metropolis, the global network of large cities and metropolitan areas, becoming the seventh to lead the organisation throughout its more than 35 years of history. He had a long professional career in international relations within Public Administration, applied research, academia, and non-profit organisations. With a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics, before working at Open Society Foundations, Jordi Vaquer was the director of CIDOB, the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, one of Southern Europe's leading international relations think tanks. Before that, he worked at the Department of International Relations of the Government of Catalonia (Spain). He is an Associate Professor at IBEI, the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals, where he has been teaching for more than a decade. He was also a columnist for the Spanish newspaper El País (2011-2014), and often offers media commentary on international affairs.

Ana Ciuti, U20 Sherpa Buenos Aires, Argentina



Ana Ciuti is the Undersecretary of International Relations at Buenos Aires City Government. Ana holds a degree in Political Science from the Catholic University of Córdoba and a Master's degree in Political Action from the Francisco de Vitoria University. She has more than 15 years of experience in research and public administration in the field of international cooperation and sustainable development. She served as Director General of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina's National Government, Head of International Affairs and Strategic Alliances at the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, Head of International Relations and Cooperation at the Government of Vicente López, among other positions

Esteban Benavides, U20 Sherpa Montreal, Canada



Esteban Benavides is the Coordinator of the International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together, a knowledge exchange network of cities. He is also International Affairs Advisor at the City of Montreal. Mr. Benavides holds more than 10 years of experience on partnership development, knowledge management and public policy at the city and at the international level. He has conducted a series of consulting assignments (technical and conceptual assistance) for cities, government agencies and international organizations (e.g.: Open Society Institute, Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, etc.). Esteban Benavides holds a Master's degree on Urban management/Sociology of University of Strasburg (France), as well as a Master on Business Administration (MBA) from HEC-Montréal. He speaks English, French, Spanish and Portuguese and has visited more than 25 countries in Europe, Africa and the Americas.



Noboru Sekiguchi, U20 Sherpa Tokyo, Japan

SEKIGUCHI Noboru is a career diplomat who joined Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1991. He has served as a diplomat in the US and the other countries in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, and also has experiences of the multilateral diplomacy at the United Nations including negotiations in the field of climate change, as well as in the second committee of the General Assembly. He has served as Minister and Chief of Economic Section at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN, Minister and Chief of Economic Section at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, and Consul General of Japan in Dubai. Since October 2023, he has held the position of Special Advisor to the Governor of Tokyo on International Affairs, overseeing city diplomacy in the Japanese capital, Tokyo.

Track 2 Session 4: Title: "Mind the Gap: Politics, Media and Communities".

12:00 – 13:00

Ballroom 3

Host: City of Johannesburg

Attendees will gain critical insights into how disinformation weakens democratic processes and public trust — and how to counter this through strategic, community-focused media communication. The session will equip city leaders and practitioners with tools to identify disinformation, engage more transparently with communities, and leverage local media to strengthen democratic dialogue. Key takeaways will include lessons from cities on countering political disinformation; the role of local leadership in bridging trust gaps through communication, media strategies that connect policies to people's lived realities and approaches to hold digital platforms accountable without compromising free speech.



Facilitator: Jordi Vaquer, Metropolis

On the 16th of April 2022, **Jordi Vaquer** took on the role of Secretary General of Metropolis, the global network of large cities and metropolitan areas, becoming the seventh to lead the organisation throughout its more than 35 years of history. He had a long professional career in international relations within Public Administration, applied research, academia, and non-profit organisations. With a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics, before working at Open Society Foundations, Jordi Vaquer was the director of CIDOB, the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, one of Southern Europe's leading international relations think tanks. Before that, he worked at the Department of International Relations of the Government of Catalonia (Spain). He is an Associate Professor at IBEI, the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals, where he has been teaching for more than a decade. He was also a columnist for the Spanish newspaper El País (2011-2014), and often offers media commentary on international affairs.



Femke Halsema, Mayor of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Femke Halsema is a Dutch politician and filmmaker, currently serving as the Mayor of Amsterdam since 2018. She is the first woman to hold the position on a non-interim basis. Prior to her mayoral role, she was a member of the Dutch House of Representatives for the political party GroenLinks (GreenLeft) from 1998 to 2011, and served as the party's parliamentary leader from 2002 to 2010. Born on April 25, 1966, in Haarlem, Netherlands, Halsema is a graduate of Utrecht University with degrees in law, sociology, and criminology. She is also a documentary filmmaker, having worked on projects like "Seks en de Zonde" (Sex and Sin), a six-part documentary series about the position of women in the Islamic world. She has also been involved with various charitable organizations, including serving as chairwoman of Stichting Vluchteling (Refugee Foundation) since 2011 and chairwoman of Aidsfonds/Stopaidsnow since 2017



Aissata Camara, U20 Sherpa New York, United States of America

Aissata M.B. Camara is a global strategist and public servant dedicated to bridging local action with international solutions. As Commissioner & Chief of Staff in the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs, she advises city leadership on global policy, manages diplomatic incidents, and ensures NYC remains a trusted global partner. Aissata collaborates with the United Nations, Consulates, international organizations, and the private sector to shape policy, drive economic diplomacy, and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She has led award-winning initiatives, including the NYC Junior Ambassadors program and the Voluntary Local Review movement, now adopted by 330+ cities worldwide. A Fulbright Specialist, global advocate, and sought-after speaker, Aissata shares insights on subnational diplomacy, gender equity, and inclusive economic growth at the UN and major global forums. Her work has been featured in The New York Times, AMNY, The Guardian, PBS, and Deutsche Welle. Named to the Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) Hall of Fame, a Baruch College Alumni Changemaker, a Thomson Reuters Trust Conference Changemaker, and honored for public service innovation, Aissata is driven by a vision to build resilient, inclusive, and globally connected communities.



Anton Harber, Executive Director of the Henry Nxumalo Foundation, South Africa

Anton Harber is the founder of Henry Nxumalo Foundation and director. Harber has been a journalist for over 40 years. He was a founding editor of the Weekly Mail (now the Mail and Guardian) and editor-in-chief of television channel eNCA. He is a board member of the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) and the Centre for Collaborative Investigative Journalism (CCIJ). He was Caxton Professor of Journalism at the University of the Witwatersrand 2001-2023, in which capacity he started and ran for 17 years the African Investigative Journalism Conference.

Track 2 Session 5: Title: “Housing and Local Governance: Civil society propositions to advance care and climate justice”.

14:30 – 15:20

Ballroom 3

Host: International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

This session focuses on how working with civil society can advance housing policies that deliver both social and climate justice. The session will highlight housing as more than shelter — positioning it as the foundation for equitable, climate-resilient communities supported by infrastructures of care. Participants will learn from initiatives which demonstrate how bottom-up approaches strengthen municipal strategies and align them with climate and social imperatives. Key takeaways will include lessons on embedding civil society perspectives into housing governance; approaches for financing and policy alignment at the municipal level; and pathways to connect local action with global agendas such as the UCLG World Congress, the New Urban Agenda review, and SDG 11 monitoring — reinforcing the U20’s priorities on social inclusion and equity.

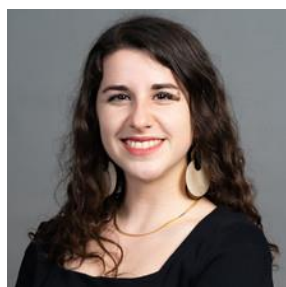
Facilitator: Mirjam van Donk, Isandla Institute

Mirjam van Donk, Isandla Institute



Mirjam van Donk is the Director of Isandla Institute. She is an urban land planner with a Masters degree from the Development Planning Unit at University College London. She also holds a Masters degree in Theology from the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. Mirjam has worked and written extensively on local government, urban governance, human settlements, development planning, gender and HIV/AIDS. She has expertise in managing complex projects and teams, programme design and institutional transformation.

Paula Sevilla Núñez, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)



Paula Sevilla Núñez is housing justice researcher at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). In her work she seeks to promote peaceful and prosperous societies through inclusive urban policy. Prior to IIED, she worked at New York University’s Center on International Cooperation on the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies programme as well as various peacebuilding and international development organisations. Paula holds a BA from New York University and a Masters of Urban Planning from Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service.

Yolande Hendler, General Secretary of Habitat International Coalition



Yolande Hendler is the General Secretary of Habitat International Coalition (HIC), a global, member-based, civil society coalition working to respect, protect and progressively fulfil human rights related to habitat, particularly the human right to adequate housing. Rooted in Southern Africa, she has worked with diverse civil society collectives across the globe, facilitating emancipatory learning, collective agenda-setting and human rights-based advocacy at multiple spheres of policy and governance. She holds an MA in Global Studies from Leipzig University.



Tobia Zevi, Deputy Mayor Rome, Italy

Tobia Zevi has always been active in his community, combining political engagement with civic and social commitment. He has held various institutional roles, working at the Province of Rome, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Presidency of the Council. As the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Patrimony of Rome, he is addressing some crucial challenges for the city, including the digitalization and census of municipal properties, a new housing plan to fight housing poverty, the opening of public assets to increase services to citizens, the urban regeneration of large municipal owned complexes and the management of state-owned maritime property. He is also responsible for the Global Cities Program at the Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) in Milan: an observatory on the most populous and influential metropolises on the planet, which constitutes a privileged point of view on the new challenges of global cities and on good practices.



Phila Mayisela, City of Cape Town, South Africa

Phila Mayisela has over two decades of experience in South African local government. She currently serves as the Acting Executive Director for Urban Waste Management in the City of Cape Town. Prior to this role, she built a long-standing career in housing delivery in the Western Cape, leading the province's Department of Human Settlements. A trained civil engineer, Phila brings technical expertise and deep public sector experience to her leadership roles.



Shaun Samuels, SGS Consulting

Shaun Samuels is the Managing Director of SGS Consulting, and is an advocate for social change, equality, and justice in the African continent. With a background in the NGO sector, he has worked extensively in government, and as a development management consultant for over 20 years. His areas of specialisation include organizational development, change management, strategy development, monitoring and evaluation, grant-making, and others. He works collaboratively with regional NGOs, the United Nations, and Regional Economic Communities, such as SADC and SADCPE, to drive positive change in the African continent.

Track 2 Session 6: Title: "Powering Public Buildings: How Cities Are Scaling Up Energy Efficiency through Global Collaboration"

15:30 – 16:20

Ballroom 3

Host: City of Copenhagen and Embassy of Denmark City and GIZ

This session will examine how cities can cut emissions and strengthen resilience by improving energy efficiency in public buildings, which remain among the largest urban energy consumers. The discussion will highlight

enabling policies, innovative tools, and real-world case studies that showcase scalable approaches to building efficiency. Drawing on Copenhagen's leadership in sustainable infrastructure and GIZ's support for municipal energy management systems, the session will provide insights into replicable strategies, capacity-building, and peer learning opportunities. Participants will leave with practical lessons on policy frameworks, proven solutions, and collaborative models to accelerate the transition toward low-carbon, net-zero public buildings.

Facilitator: Megan Euston-Brown, Sustainable Energy Africa



Megan Euston-Brown is a Director of Sustainable Energy Africa, a not-for-profit organisation supporting urban sustainable energy transitions in South and Sub-Saharan Africa. Megan has worked in the field of energy for development since 2003. Her experience includes urban energy data and GHG emissions inventories, City climate and energy strategy planning across all sectors, implementation in relation to distribution utility business transition, small scale embedded generation, energy efficiency. Between 2020 – 2023, Megan lead the implementation of the C40 net zero carbon building regulation across the 4 large South African metros. The work of SEA has since supported capacity building across building inspectorates of city's as well as improved data systems for NZC building monitoring.

Ambassador Karin Poulsen, Incoming Danish Ambassador to South Africa



Ambassador Karin Poulsen is the incoming Danish Ambassador to South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Lesotho, eSwatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Back in the 90's, she lived and worked in South Africa to enhance the Human Rights agenda in the country. She has vast experience of working as a consultant and driver of the human rights and sustainability agendas in Denmark and on an international scale. Karin has been a Deputy Head of Mission of the Royal Danish Embassy in Accra, Ghana, and from 2018-2021 was the Ambassador of Denmark to Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan and Sudan. Permanent Representative to the African Union, IGAD and UNECA. Her most recent position was being a Director for the Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate under the Danish Ministry of Foreign affairs.

Lebo Molefe, City of Johannesburg



Lebo Molefe is a director at the City of Johannesburg, where she leads the mainstreaming of climate change and air quality management city wide. She has over 20 years of work experience in environmental sustainability, working at all levels of government and has also worked briefly as an environmental consultant. Lebo's core competencies include championing environmental sustainability holistically, stakeholder engagement, and project management. She's currently the custodian of the climate action plan and the air quality management plan for the city of Johannesburg. She's also the focal point for c40 cities, including the overseeing the cooperation agreement between City of Joburg and City of Copenhagen supported by the Danish Embassy. Based on her knowledge and capacity, she is also contributing

to the process of the City's compliance with compliance with ESG requirements. Lebo is passionate about advancing environmental justice and sustainable development in her city and beyond.

Anders Christian Lyngtorp, Copenhagen Properties



Anders Christian Lyngtorp is Chief Consultant in the Department for Energy & Innovation at City of Copenhagen Properties. He holds an MSc in Technical and Environmental Planning and has worked for the City of Copenhagen since 2014, previously serving as Head of the Department for Technical Installations and Energy. Anders has been instrumental in implementing energy monitoring systems and energy efficiency initiatives, which contributed to the City of Copenhagen receiving the C40 award in the "Cities4Energy" category. He also coordinates the city's international work in the field of energy and technical installations.

Prior to this, Anders was Head of the Technical Department at a major private property management company in Copenhagen. He has also worked as a strategic advisor in Corporate Social Responsibility for Denmark's public utility company.

Jesper Vauvert, GIZ



Jesper Vauvert holds a MSc in Mechanical Engineering from the Technical University of Denmark, with more than 28 years of professional experience with energy management and energy efficiency in Southern and Eastern Africa, Europe and Asia. Since December 2018 he has been the Team Leader for the support to development of Municipal Energy Management Systems under GIZ's SAGEN III and IV programs.

Track 2 Session 7: Title: "From Local Action to Systemic Change: Cities on the frontlines of food system justice."

16:30 – 17:30

Ballroom 3

Host: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) & UCLG

Cities are becoming key drivers of agrifood system outcomes, where local governments play pivotal roles not just as implementers but as innovators shaping inclusive, sustainable, and resilient agrifood systems. Urban areas provide unique opportunities for integrated interventions that link the environment, youth entrepreneurship, and long-term food security. This event will explore how urban initiatives can advance food security, health and well-being, showcasing practical examples and highlighting youth-led efforts. It will assess how integrated, multi-sectoral approaches within cities can drive transformative changes in urban agrifood systems.



Jane Battersby, Urban food security expert, Senior researcher at the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town

Jane Battersby is an urban geographer with an interest in all things food related. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental & Geographical Science at the University of Cape Town, and a Research Associate of the African Centre for Cities. Her current areas of particular interest are urban food systems, urban food policies and the construction of food security theory in Northern and Southern research contexts. This work has both theoretical and applied components. Underpinning her food work is an ongoing interest in the linkages between spatial transformation and identity transformation in post-apartheid urban areas – a topic she has addressed through the lenses of youth identities, education, music and land restitution. Jane holds a PhD from Oxford University, a Masters from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and a BSc (Hons) from Kings College, London.



Dr. Cemil Tugay, Mayor of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality

Dr. Cemil Tugay is a medical doctor and experienced public leader with a distinguished career spanning healthcare, academia, and local governance. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Ege University in 1989 and initially served as a general practitioner in Çorum and Tire. Between 1993 and 2000, he specialized in Plastic Surgery at İzmir Atatürk Training and Research Hospital, where he also completed his specialist doctorate. During this period, he broadened his expertise with a year of research at the Cleveland Clinic in the United States. Following his specialization, Dr. Tugay worked as a Plastic Surgery specialist at Karşıyaka Public Hospital (2001–2005) and İzmir Çiğli Kent Hospital (2005–2009), before establishing his own private practice in Karşıyaka in 2009. Alongside his medical career, he became actively involved in professional associations, serving in leadership positions within the Turkish Medical Association, the İzmir Chamber of Medicine, and the Turkish Plastic Surgery Association. Dr. Tugay entered public service as a member of the Republican People's Party (CHP) in 2010, holding several executive and advisory roles within the party at provincial and district levels. In 2019, he was elected Mayor of Karşıyaka Municipality, a position he held until 2024. In June 2024, Dr. Tugay was elected President of the Union of Healthy Cities of Turkey, where he continues to champion policies that promote healthier, more sustainable urban environments.



Tobia Zevi, Deputy Mayor Rome, Italy

Tobia Zevi has always been active in his community, combining political engagement with civic and social commitment. He has held various institutional roles, working at the Province of Rome, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Presidency of the Council. As the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Patrimony of Rome, he is addressing some crucial challenges for the city, including the digitalization and census of municipal properties, a new housing plan to fight housing poverty, the opening of public assets to increase services to citizens, the urban regeneration of large municipal owned complexes and the management of state-owned maritime property. He is also responsible for the Global Cities Program at the Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) in Milan: an observatory on the most

populous and influential metropolises on the planet, which constitutes a privileged point of view on the new challenges of global cities and on good practices.



Dr Angela Gandra, U20 Sherpa São Paulo, Brazil

Dr. Angela Gandra is secretary of international affairs of of São Paulo City Hall Graduate degree in Law at the University of São Paulo (USP). Master's degree in philosophy of law at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). Doctor's degree in Philosophy of Law at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). Visiting professor and researcher on Legal and Philosophical Anthropology at Harvard University. Certified in public examination to teach Roman Law (UFPR) and Introduction to the Philosophy of Law (UFRGS). Ex-partner at the Gandra Martins Law Firm. Member at the Superior Council of Law in FECOMERCIO. Member of the Brazilian Academy of Philosophy. Member of the Legal Letters Academy of São Paulo. Professor at the CEU Law School. President of the Ives Gandra Institute of Law, Philosophy and Economy. National Secretary of the Family at the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights of Brazil.

SOCIAL EVENT

Social event 2: Dinner & Theatre

The critically acclaimed South African musical **Sarafina!** at the Soweto Theatre

Background

Joburg City Theatres (JCT) is an entity of the City of Johannesburg that operates Joburg Theatre, Roodepoort Theatre and Soweto Theatre. JCT programs include a wide range of productions, including but not limited to pantomimes, plays, musicals, ballet, contemporary dance, tributes, comedy, poetry, concerts, school networks and festivals.

Invitees

All delegates and special guests are participating in U20 (Capacity: 420 pax)

Order of proceedings

17:30	Closure of last sessions at U20 Conference Venue
18:00	Departure of buses from NH Hotel
18:45	Arrival at Soweto Theatre • Guests welcomed with a live performance by the Soweto Youth Orchestra • Welcome drinks and snacks served in Forecourt
19:30 – 20:45	Performance of Sarafina! Concert
20:45	Finger food and dessert served (post-show refreshments and networking)
21:30	Departure of buses to NH Hotel

About The Soweto Theatre Youth Orchestra



The Soweto Theatre Youth Orchestra, under the Joburg City Theatres, is a dynamic programme designed to equip young musicians with both artistic and professional skills in the field of music. The orchestra is composed of 30 talented young adults from across Soweto and was established in September 2024 with a vision to create opportunities through structured music education and performance. This innovative programme emphasizes a holistic approach to music, where participants are taught to read and write music, enabling them to perform confidently on any stage when presented with a musical score. More than just technical training, the initiative is committed to developing soft skills essential to professional musicianship discipline, focus, collaboration, and adaptability. “Studying and playing an instrument instils a level of discipline and concentration that serves our young artists both on and off the stage,” said Ntombizivumile Qupe, Youth and Community Development Manager at Soweto Theatre. “Through ensemble work and collaborations, they also learn teamwork, communication, and how to navigate working with people from all walks of life.” What sets the Soweto Theatre Youth Orchestra apart is its diverse and genre-spanning faculty. The programme’s facilitators are seasoned performers specializing in genres ranging from Classical and Western to Afro-Jazz and African traditional music. This blend of practical experience and academic understanding offers participants a unique and well-rounded musical education. The orchestra is playing a vital role in reviving the musical heartbeat of Soweto by breathing new life into the historic Jabulani Amphitheatre, once a prominent cultural venue during the height of Soweto's artistic evolution. The amphitheatre is now witnessing a resurgence as the orchestra will attract diverse audiences, re-establishing it as a creative cornerstone in the community. Through live concerts, music education initiatives, and collaborations, the orchestra is not only restoring the venue's legacy but also inspiring a new generation of musicians. In doing so, the orchestra is helping transform Jabulani, and the wider Soweto, back into a thriving hub of artistic innovation and cultural pride.

About Sarafina



SARAFINA! is an iconic South African musical created by Dr Mbongeni Ngema that tells the story of students involved in the Soweto uprising. The 2025 staging at Joburg Theatre marked a modern revival, featuring new talent, updated production design, and a deeply relevant message for today's youth. The production drew critical acclaim and strong attendance, resonating with young and intergenerational audiences alike. Through dynamic dance, stirring music, and emotional storytelling, Sarafina! explores themes of resistance, hope, and the cost of freedom. It is both a tribute to those who fought for liberation and a celebration of the enduring power of the arts in shaping collective memory and social change.

This internationally acclaimed musical debuted on Broadway in 1988 and was later adapted into a feature film starring Whoopi Goldberg and Leleti Khumalo. Today, it continues to inspire new generations with its timeless message and electrifying

performances. Set against the backdrop of Morris Isaacson High School in Soweto, the story unfolds in the wake of the historic events of 1976, when approximately 200,000 black students united in protest against the apartheid regime's oppressive education system. Through its captivating performances and evocative music, Sarafina! strives to bring this significant moment in history to life, reminding audiences of the enduring spirit of resistance and the ongoing quest for social and political justice.

DAY 3: 14 SEPTEMBER 2025

MAIN TRACK

COP30 Mayoral briefing: Closed door session

08:30 – 09:00

Ballroom 3

This closed-door session, From U20 to COP30: City Advocacy Briefing, will prepare U20 mayors and advisors to engage in C40's collective advocacy ahead of COP30 in Belém—a pivotal moment for cities to demonstrate leadership as the world shifts from negotiation to action on climate commitments. Linking the U20 Communiqué, the C40 World Mayors Summit, and COP30 discussions, the briefing will provide essential political context, key advocacy messages, and practical ways for cities to contribute—whether attending COP30 or not—highlighting the vital role of cities in advancing multilevel governance, climate finance, and ambitious, just climate action.



C40 Co-Chair & Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leon, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr

Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr OBE was Mayor of Freetown from May 2018 to February 2023 and was re-elected to serve for a second term in June 2023. A finance professional with over 25 years of private sector experience in strategic planning, risk management consulting and project management, Mayor Aki-Sawyerr has adopted an inclusive, data-driven approach to addressing challenges in the city. In her first term, she championed the 4- year “Transform Freetown” plan which detailed 19 concrete targets across 11 sectors. Aki-Sawyerr’s notable achievements include the construction and operation of Freetown’s first ever wastewater treatment plant, the digitalization and expansion of the city’s property rate system, the planting and tracking of 977,000 trees as part of the #FreetownTheTreeTown 1m trees target and securing the ongoing feasibility study for the introduction of a mass transit cable car system for the city. Aki-Sawyerr’s second term development plan “Transform Freetown – Transforming Lives” is focused on the creation of dignified jobs for women and youth through climate action, the growth of heritage tourism and the digital economy underpinned by investments in human development. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr OBE was a Schwab Foundation Outstanding Public Social Innovator for the Year 2023, she was featured by Time Magazine in the inaugural Time100 Climate List 2023, the Time100 Next 2021 List and by the BBC in the BBC 100 Women 2020 List. She is

the Co-Chair of C40 Cities Global Group Steering Committee, a network of almost 100 cities committed to addressing climate change.

Donna Hume, C40



Donna Hume is the Director of Political Strategy and Campaigns at C40, where she drives global advocacy for ambitious climate action. She previously spent over a decade at Friends of the Earth, leading successful campaigns that stopped fracking in the UK, secured a national coal phase-out by 2025, and advanced global efforts to keep fossil fuels in the ground. She also spearheaded coalitions for clean energy, launched the organisation's air quality campaign, and defended solar industry support. Earlier, at the Environmental Justice Foundation, she worked on exposing unethical practices in global cotton farming. Donna holds a History degree from King's College London.

U20 Mayors closing plenary. Closed door session

09:30 – 11:30

Ballroom 2 [others will be able to observe the session from Ballroom 1]

The U20 Mayoral Plenary will bring together U20 cities (participating and observer cities) to provide closing remarks and commitments to share the U20 Communiqué with country sherpas before G20. Participation is open to mayors, Sherpas and selected high-level external stakeholders, including national government ministers, who have been invited to join this session to benefit from direct engagement and dialogue with U20 cities on their advocacy priorities.

- What specific actions will your city take to take forward the U20 Communiqué with your national government and G20 Sherpa, and how can U20 further strengthen this city-to-national collaboration?
- How can national governments enable and drive progress on the key asks and priorities of the U20?
- Looking toward the future, what are the most significant opportunities to elevate U20 priorities with G20 governments and in wider international fora?
- As part of their intervention, we encourage all cities to share action/actions to deliver the U20 Communiqué to their relevant national government Sherpas. This will form a symbolic and practical step to ensure the 2025 Communiqué elevates key U20 priorities with national decision-makers.

CLOSING SESSION AND HANDOVER CEREMONY

14:00 – 15:45

Ballroom 1-3 Plenary

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 14:00 – 14:05 | Welcome remarks: Programme Director: Edgar Pieterse (5 mins) |
| 14:05 – 14:10 | Cultural item: Siki Jo-An (5 mins) |
| 14:10 – 14:25 | U20 Conveners |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C40 Shruti Narayan (7 mins) |

- UCLG Emilia Saiz (7 mins)

14:25 – 14:45

Mayoral voices

- UCLG Co-President & Kitchener Mayor Berry Vrbanovic (5 mins)
- C40 Co-Chair & Freetown Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyer (5 mins)
- U20 Co-Chair & Tshwane Mayor Dr. Nasiphi Moya (5 mins)
- U20 Co-Chair & Johannesburg Mayor Sello Enoch Dada Morero (5 mins)

14:45 – 14:55

Keynote speaker

- SALGA President: Bheke Stofile (5 mins)
- H.E Mr Nelson Muffuh, Resident Coordinator for United Nations in South Africa [TBC] (10 mins)

14:55 – 15:00

Cultural item: Siki Jo-An (5 mins)

15:05 – 15:10

Communique Handover Ceremony (5 mins)

- Mayor Morero to South African Presidency and G20 representative

15:10 – 15:15

G20 Sherpa Zane Dangor [TBC] (5 mins)

15:15 – 15:20

Former Deputy President and G20 Social Summit Convener Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (5 mins)

15:20 – 15:35

COGTA Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa (15 mins)

Closing

15:45 – 16:15

Closed media session

Background information:

Siki Jo-An:

Siki Jo-An is a South African spiritual singer, actress, and songwriter who rose to prominence in The Voice South Africa in 2019, where her performance of Miriam Makeba's "Qongqothwane" ("The Click Song") went viral. Born Sikelelwa Jo-An Qwazi, she has since performed at major events, including Miss South Africa, and launched her international music career, performing in South Africa and Brazil.

Programme Director: Edgar Pieterse, African Centre for Cities (ACC)



Professor **Edgar Pieterse** is founding director of the African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town since 2007. He is a Board member of the Development Bank of Southern Africa; Co-Chair of the African Mayoral Leadership Initiative (AMALI); and Provost of the Norman Foster Institute. He works closely with numerous international organisations, think tanks and networks that advance the agenda of sustainable and just urbanism. His most recent co-authored book is: Cities Rethought. A New Urban Disposition. (Polity, 2025).

Shruti Narayan, C40



Shruti Narayan Shruti Narayan is C40's Managing Director for Regions and Mayoral Engagement as well as Regional Director for South and West Asia. With global experience spanning over two decades, she leads C40's regional efforts to mainstream climate action for resilient and equitable cities. Before joining C40, Shruti has worked in several key global organizations such as Arup and USAID, she joined C40 from the International Finance Corporation working on municipal financing. In addition she has been a visiting faculty at several academic institutions such as Stanford University, California College of Arts and School of Planning and Architecture. She is particularly passionate about working with students and women-led groups in building a strong and supportive community of climate champions.

Emilia Saiz, UCLG



Emilia Sáiz is Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). She has worked with the international movement of local and regional governments in different capacities since 1997, leading programmes and initiatives on institutional capacity building, the participation of women in local decision-making and decentralized cooperation. She played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and represented local and regional governments in international processes such as the Rio and Beijing +20, the Climate Agreement, SDGs and Habitat III and facilitated contributions from local constituencies to United Nations processes.

UCLG Co-President & Mayor of Kitchener, Canada, Berry Vrbanovic



Mayor Berry Vrbanovic serves as Co-President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the world's largest organization of local and regional governments. Elected to the UCLG Presidency for the 2022–2026 term, he plays a pivotal role in advancing global municipal diplomacy, sustainable urban development, and inclusive governance. As Co-President, Mayor Vrbanovic represents UCLG at high-level international forums advocating for the priorities of cities and local governments worldwide. His leadership within UCLG has included roles as Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, and Vice-Chair of the Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy Committee. He is also President Emeritus of the Federation of

Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Vrbanovic has been Mayor of Kitchener, Ontario, since 2014, following 20 years as a city councillor. His international perspective is shaped by his personal journey as an immigrant from Zagreb, Croatia, and his commitment to building inclusive, resilient communities. He holds a BA in Political Science and a Diploma in Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University and is an alumnus of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative.

C40 Co-Chair & Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leon, Yvonne Aki-Sawyer



Yvonne Aki-Sawyer OBE was Mayor of Freetown from May 2018 to February 2023 and was re-elected to serve for a second term in June 2023. A finance professional with over 25 years of private sector experience in strategic planning, risk management consulting and project management, Mayor Aki-Sawyer has adopted an inclusive, data-driven approach to addressing challenges in the city. In her first term, she championed the 4- year “Transform Freetown” plan which detailed 19 concrete targets across 11 sectors. Aki-Sawyer’s notable achievements include the construction and operation of Freetown’s first ever wastewater treatment plant, the digitalization and expansion of the city’s property rate system, the planting and tracking of 977,000 trees as part of the #FreetownTheTreeTown 1m trees target and securing the ongoing feasibility study for the introduction of a mass transit cable car system for the city. Aki-Sawyer’s second term development plan “Transform Freetown – Transforming Lives” is focused on the creation of dignified jobs for women and youth through climate action, the growth of heritage tourism and the digital economy underpinned by investments in human development. Yvonne Aki-Sawyer OBE was a Schwab Foundation Outstanding Public Social Innovator for the Year 2023, she was featured by Time Magazine in the inaugural Time100 Climate List 2023, the Time100 Next 2021 List and by the BBC in the BBC 100 Women 2020 List. She is the Co-Chair of C40 Cities Global Group Steering Committee, a network of almost 100 cities committed to addressing climate change.

Dr. Nasiphi Moya, Mayor of Tshwane, South Africa



Dr. Nasiphi Moya is the mayor of City of Tshwane. Cllr Moya joined ActionSA in 2021 as Chief Governance Director and was sworn in as a PR Councillor in Tshwane in January 2023. She rose swiftly through the ranks, serving as Deputy Mayor from January 2024 and was elected Executive Mayor of Tshwane on 9 October 2024. Cllr Nasiphi Moya is a seasoned public policy and governance expert with a strong academic foundation and a dynamic political career. She began her political journey at the University of Cape Town (UCT), where she earned a Bachelor of Social Science in Politics and Public Policy, followed by an Honours and a Master of Philosophy in Public Policy and Administration. She later obtained a PhD in Political Science from the University of the Western Cape in 2021. With a solid background in public administration, policy development, and political leadership, Cllr Moya brings

academic depth, governance expertise, and a proven commitment to democratic transformation and effective service delivery.

Councillor Dada Morero, Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa



Sello Enoch Dada Morero has served as the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg since his election in August 2024. Prior to assuming this role, he was the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Finance. He is also the regional chairperson of the African National Congress (ANC) in Johannesburg. With a career spanning public service, political leadership, and community advocacy, Morero envisions Johannesburg as a city of opportunity and excellence—a global leader in innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. His administration is focused on delivering a bold, transformative agenda. In 2025, Mayor Morero will co-host the U20 Summit in Johannesburg, bringing together global city leaders to tackle urban challenges. He also serves as President of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), further demonstrating his dedication to international cooperation and urban development. With a background in public service and anti-corruption, he has held various leadership roles in the City of Johannesburg since 2004. Mayor Morero holds multiple postgraduate qualifications.

Cllr Bheke Charles Stofile, SALGA President



Cllr Bheke Charles Stofile is the Speaker of Matjhabeng Local Municipality and was elected SALGA President at SALGA's National Conference held in March 2022. On Friday, 14 October 2022, President Stofile was elected as one of the 5 Co-Presidents of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). He has over time been involved in various leadership levels that resulted in him acquiring a high level of strategic planning and executive skills namely: Public Management, Competencies, Strategic Executive Leadership Skills, Capacity to build commitment in the team, Teamwork, decisive decision making and thoughtful leadership, Good negotiator and ability to influence, Build networks and partnerships skills, Good communication and facilitation skills, Well-developed stakeholder and political acumen expertise, Change management and solid corporate governance expertise, Good writing and solid project management skills, Analytical and organizing skill and Public Management skills.

[TBC] Mr. Nelson Muffuh, UN Resident Coordinator in South Africa



Nelson Muffuh is the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in South Africa. He assumed office in December 2022 following his appointment by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Before this role, Mr. Muffuh, a Cameroonian national, served as the Chief of Staff, Head of Office, and Principal Strategic Adviser to UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General since February 2017. In this capacity, he managed staff in the Deputy Secretary-General's Office, focusing on repositioning the UN development system and strengthening the Resident Coordinators system. As a strategic coordinator and policy adviser, Mr. Muffuh played a key role in guiding the UN's

response to the Covid-19 pandemic, organizing summits on Financing for Development and Climate Action. He also coordinated the Global Crisis Group's efforts on the UN's response to the war in Ukraine and the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Prior to joining the DSG's Office, Mr. Muffuh shaped and coordinated partnership engagements, contributing to the formulation of strategies for the post-2015 development policy, resulting in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its accompanying SDGs. Throughout his UN career at regional and country levels and at the UN Secretariat, he gained extensive experience in program coordination, management, partnerships, communications, stakeholder engagement, advocacy, and mobilization. Before his UN career, Mr. Muffuh served in various roles, including Senior Programme and Advocacy Adviser for Christian Aid (London), Programme Coordinator for the African Liberal Network and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (Africa/UK), and Programme Coordinator for Transparency International (Berlin). A political and international relations expert, as well as an international development specialist, Mr. Muffuh is a graduate of Freie Universität Berlin in Germany and Sussex University in the United Kingdom. He is married with two children.

[TBC] *Zane Dangor, G20 Sherpa*



Mr Zane Dangor, is the Sherpa appointed by the South African government. Mr Dangor currently serves as the Director-General (DG) of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). Before being appointed to serve in this capacity from 1 April 2022, he was a Special Adviser to the current and former Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation. Before joining DIRCO, he worked as the Chief Operations Officer at Soul City. Mr Dangor worked at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as its interim representative to the African Union and Economic Commission for Africa in 2017. Before joining the UNFPA, he served as DG of the Department of Social Development. He also served as Deputy DG of the Department of Social Development, where he worked for over 12 years. This included being seconded to serve as Special Adviser to two Ministers of Social Development. Mr Dangor worked with the International Human Rights Law Group, based in Washington, DC, focussing on transitional justice issues in West Africa. He worked in civil society and as a consultant in various capacities. He was a senior manager, including Executive Director at the Development Resource Centre, for 10 years, where he contributed to human rights and development work nationally and abroad. He was a managing partner in the social consulting company, Sonke Consulting. Mr Dangor holds a Master's in Law in International Law and a Master's in Public and Development Management, both from the University of the Witwatersrand.



Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Former Deputy President and G20 Social Summit Convener

Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is the former Executive Director of UN Women & Deputy President of South Africa, the Founder of Umlambo Foundation, and a Gender Activist and Campaigner for Universal Access to Education. She was sworn into office at the UN in 2013 and brought a wealth of experience and expertise to the position, having devoted her career to issues of human rights, equality, and social justice. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka has worked in government, private sector, and civil society and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa. From 2005 to 2008, she served as Deputy President of South Africa, overseeing programs to combat poverty and bring the advantages of a growing economy to the poor, with a particular focus on women. Prior to this, she served as Minister of Minerals and Energy from 1999 to 2005 and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry from 1996 to 1999. She was a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 1996 as part of South Africa's first democratic government. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka began her career as a teacher and gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA in Geneva, where she established a global program for young women. She is the founder of the Umlambo Foundation, which supports leadership and education. A longtime champion of women's rights, she is affiliated with several organizations devoted to education, women's empowerment and gender equality.



Velenkosini Hlabisa, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), South Africa

Velenkosini Fiki Hlabisa is a South African politician who is currently serving as Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in the Government of National Unity (GNU) since June 2024. He has been President of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) since 2019 and a member of South Africa's National Assembly where he serves as his party's leader since October 2023. He previously served as the Secretary-General of the IFP from 2011 to 2017, as the Mayor of the Big Five Hlabisa Local Municipality from 2016 to 2019. With a passion for education, he pursued a career in teaching, eventually rising to become the Principal of Somfula High School. His commitment to his profession led him to pursue higher education, earning an SSTD and B.Paed Degree in History from the University of Zululand, as well as a BA Honours Degree in History from the University of South Africa.