

**OPENING ADDRESS BY Dr. ALIOUNE BADIANE, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMME,  
UN-HABITAT AT THE INAUGURAL EVENT OF THE AFRICA FORUM FOR URBAN  
SAFETY (AFUS), INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, DURBAN, 29 JUNE  
2016**

Your Worship The Mayor of Thekwini Municipality /Durban and host of this inaugural Learning Event of the Africa Forum for Urban Safety (AFUS).

Hon Mayor Jean Baptiste Diouf from Grand Dakar on behalf Hon Mayor Ababacar khalifa Sall Mayor of Dakar and President of UCLG\_A

Hon Jonathan Mweke Dep Governor of Nairobi

Hon Mayor of Blantyre Malawi

Mayor Danho Mayor of Attecoube Abidjan and chairman of FISU

Representative of the Government of the Republic of South Africa

Mr Clement Ouanguo Director of cabinet of Hon Minister MR Simon Compaore Minister of Tterritorial Administration Decentralization and Internal Security of Burkina Faso

J P Elong MBASSI The Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Government

My Sister Mrs Ifeoma Okali, International law and dispute Settlement Consultant

Leaders and officials of cities and local governments,

Fellow UN colleagues, dear participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and thank you for honoring us with your presence.

A very warm thank you to the leadership and people of eThekwini Municipality for welcoming us all to this beautiful city of Durban even indeed at a most pressing time when the city and the country is in transition towards the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Local Government elections.

This is a indeed a great day for Africa as finally after a previous failed attempt by cities in 2000 to get this Africa Forum for Urban Safety (AFUS) to take off under the leadership of the City of Dakar, we finally are now witnessing the birth of AFUS.

Thank you, Mayor, Your Municipality and the People of Durban for taking the lead, for inviting us, for the hospitality, for such fine arrangements, and for making us feel so very welcome.

I know how much effort has gone into making this event a success, the first time in independent Africa that a city takes the lead in convening an African Forum for Urban Safety with its own resources. It truly is an Africa-wide event in the sense that invitation was open to all cities - across the continent, thanks again to the efforts by the Secretary General of UCLGA Elong Mbassi to support this initiative by Durban.

I speak for everyone here in expressing our very deep appreciation.

That said, we also acknowledge the many more who have struggled to make their way here to Durban, including a large delegation of cities from Nigeria to whom this issue was extremely pertinent – but are not present here today – if not for the tough visa restrictions that we in Africa are still yet to overcome (*I look forward to the realization of the African passport that will facilitate free movement across the continent!*); coupled with of course the ongoing Ramadhan season that many mayors could not make it, including those from Senegal, Morocco and Somalia, just to mention.

But even from afar, they are with us - as a community of practice of the Africa Forum for Urban Safety. That we have started together as a one African community the journey of 1000 miles with a step today is truly gratifying. We are very much conscious of the competing demands of those of you leaders in many sectors of our cities and continent who have made it here today on your time, and hence why, your presence, today is more than courtesy, it is a symbol.

To you all, Thank you all for your friendship.

Mr. Mayor, that we are here, today, in this moment, is not a coincidence. 18 years ago, here in South Africa, in the city of Johannesburg, the global community on crime prevention under the lead of ICPC and UN-Habitat assembled here to lay the foundation for local crime prevention partnerships under the leadership of local government. In only those 18 years, 10 countries in the region have integrated the role of local government in crime prevention – and in some cases are scaling them up at a national level with different levels of successes and failures, but in all cases, they continue to be work in progress. These include South Africa itself, Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Tanzania, Madagascar, Kenya, Morocco, and Egypt.

In the same period of time, the continent just as the rest of the world has witnessed heightened safety and security concerns to levels that are unprecedented in human history. At the same time, we have also witnessed rapid urbanization taking root in unpredicted proportions with Africa and Asia at the lead of this urban revolution. Unfortunately, not planned and managed well, this rapid

urbanization has served to undermine the very efforts of governments in their development agendas including exacerbating the security concerns.

As a result, the continent is today scourged by several severe forms of crime and violence that have taken place over just the past decade that have left thousands wounded or traumatized in many cities, towns and villages of Africa. We all share a sense of revulsion at what is going on in that corner of North Eastern of Nigeria and across West Africa with the violent extremism of the Boko and as well the Al Shabaab in East Africa. Notwithstanding, the xenophobic, albino and ethnic cleansing attacks in countries such as South Africa, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya; and the spread of gender-based violence in both public and private spaces across Africa. These are just but to mention a few of the crimes that have emerged or grown exponentially in the past decade and all too often confounding cities to a state of failure in their development visions. It signifies the need for action to redouble our efforts in the investment in promising practices that can make our cities and human settlements safer and more inclusive.

Like many of you here today, in the light of these tragic crimes and sporadic violence taking root in our societies across the region, we must sometimes wonder, though, whether lessons are being taken to overcome the mistakes of the past and build prevention capacities where none existed to make our cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

In the context of prevention capacities, especially at the local government level, I know Africa, unlike Europe and Latin America has a long way to go. There are many challenges. But as well, the few solutions that we have of cities in our midst that this Inaugural Learning Exchange of the Africa Forum for Urban Safety will show, is reason enough for a concerted effort to grow this culture of prevention as the only sure way for lasting solutions to the creation of safer cities in the next 50 years of Africa's development.

It is here that I hope, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, you will agree with me that UN-Habitat, through our different interventions across Africa, over the years, has been a reliable partner in this journey and today can help through its lessons from practice to shape the debate and future actions of cities towards building the prevention capacity of local governments to address these increasing scourge of crime and violence – and at scale.

Allow me at this juncture to highlight UN-Habitat's contribution to this debate.

It was in 1996, when the founding fathers laid the foundation for the creation of the Safer Cities Programme at UN-Habitat. Led by Dr. Franz Vanderschueren, the founding Coordinator of the Safer Cities Programme, the initiative was launched at a moment of high hopes, aspirations, optimism for the field of crime prevention with the adoption of the 1995 UN Guidelines on

Urban Crime Prevention and with the presence of strong international institutions namely the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC) which is represented here today by its Director General Daniel Cauchy; and the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS) whose Director General Elizabeth Johnston will also be speaking to you via remote later in the day.

20 years ago, it became clear that in order to foster sustainable safety in our neighborhoods and cities, a more global approach to the issue of urban crime and violence was necessary. Safety had to be seen as a concern and collective responsibility of all institutional and community stakeholders – and not just the police. To act on the causes and situations breathing crime and insecurity required sharing expertise and resources, planning and coordinating targeted actions and engaging citizens in a concerted effort. In that perspective, the key role of local authorities in fostering this process, in mobilizing communities and in developing crime prevention strategies has been more and more recognized. It is in this context that the Safer Cities Program was set by UN-Habitat immediately after the Habitat II conference in Istanbul in 1996.

It is important to note that UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Program was not created to reduce crime and violence in cities but rather to contribute to the reform (innovation) in diagnosing, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluating of various crime prevention efforts at the local government level.

It was indeed right here in South Africa where our first city projects were developed – with the cities of Johannesburg and Durban and at that time within a perspective of safety as an issue of urban management and poverty reduction. Not to say that poverty was the cause of crime, or to criminalize poverty, but rather to address safety in the context of factors that underlay poverty, most notably being social exclusion. So far as to show through several crime victimization surveys that crime actually impacted most on the urban poor contrary to common perceptions that criminalized the poor in the face of rising crime and violence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since then, UN-Habitat has been promoting and supporting local and national authorities in 77 cities globally to engage in a systematic approach to address the root causes of urban crime and insecurity through focused crime prevention and community safety strategies responding to the needs of all citizens, including women, the poor, children and the elderly.

As you will witness from this Learning Exchange, the Safer Cities experience in Africa has recorded significant progress in developing and adapting tools to analyse and understands issues and trends related to violence, delinquency and insecurity in African cities. Considerable efforts were put into the actual implementation of the Safer Cities approach in a number of large urban centers in Africa. The first projects were developed by UN-Habitat with the support of the

International Centre for the Prevention of Crime. They involved long and complex discussions and negotiations with the local authorities involved, national ministries, funding agencies and other strategic partners. As a result, different models of local governance and participation have been put in place at a citywide scale; Comprehensive crime prevention and urban safety strategies and action plans have been developed; Demonstration projects at the community level have been initiated and tested; and last but not least, researches have been undertaken and evaluations have been conducted in the following cities and countries:

- Johannesburg (South Africa) 1997
- Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) 1997
- Abidjan (Ivory Coast) 1998
- Durban (South Africa) 1999
- Antananarivo (Madagascar) 1999
- Bamako (Mali) 2000
- Nairobi (Kenya) 2001
- Yaoundé (Cameroon) 2001
- Douala (Cameroon) 2003
- Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) 2009
- Bujumbura (Burundi) 2010

In other countries, assessments were conducted and some activities were initiated, although they did not result in full fledged Safer Cities projects. These include Dakar (Senegal), Cape Verde, Conakry (Guinea) and N'Djamena (Chad).

In almost all cases, the process involved:

- A project formulation phase
- The creation of a local coordination team
- A local safety diagnosis and/or victims' survey
- The mobilization and sensitization of municipal actors and other institutional and community partners
- The creation of a steering committee and of collaborative mechanisms
- The elaboration of an urban safety and crime prevention strategy
- The development and implementation of an action plan and targeted pilot projects
- The monitoring and evaluation of the project

In Tanzania and Cote D'Ivoire, these initiatives opened the door for an extension of the Safer Cities approach to other cities within the country. In Tanzania, Kenya and South Africa, the safer cities pilots in Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Durban and Johannesburg have also resulted in the inclusion of urban safety as a key issue in the national urban policy frameworks of these countries.

Where the initiatives have sustained today, the key factor of success has been the political leadership of the municipality beyond mayoral terms that have respected the institutionalized and long-term requirement of prevention to show tangible results. As well, a second key factor of success has been the focus on an evidence base to inform strategic responses of the municipality in addressing crime across various departments, Without informed analysis a strategic response is unlikely or may be aimed at the wrong objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

This year, 2016, as you will note, we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of not only normative development but also city project development and implementation. It is a moment to look back into the mirror, the last twenty years, the road we have travelled. But above all to project into the future for the mountains we must still climb.

UN-Habitat continues to advance innovations as it seeks to integrate Safer Cities within the thinking of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban World – Safer Cities 2.0 in the New Urban Agenda. Partnerships with other institutions is key to this approach around the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC) which was launched at the Sixth Session of the World Urban Forum in Naples, Italy in 2012 and which now sees Mayors at the frontline of this global governance effort. In Africa, Mayor Jean Claude Danho, the Mayor of Attercoube, Abidjan in Cote D’Ivoire, together with Khalifa Sall, the Mayor of Dakar; my brother, Parks Tau, the Mayor of Johannesburg and our host James Nxumalo, the Mayor of Durban have led this charge towards the scaling up of Safer Cities 2.0 in the New Urban Agenda and with growing successes.

Only last month, UN-Habitat together with IDRC and with the support of the West Africa Monetary Union and the City of Dakar, convened a West Africa Conference on Safer Cities in the city of Dakar. This conference brought together researchers and practitioners in cities to analyse the context of safety and security in our cities and with the vision towards establishing a regional hub and center of excellence to harness the capacity among cities with their local universities of monitoring and analysis of crime as a key developmental response – and not just a security and policing responsibility.

Here in South Africa, we are aware that Mayor Tau as Chair of the South Africa Cities Network has integrated safer cities as a key issue that has led to the establishment of a South Africa National Reference Group on Safer Cities – and with the support of the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ).

Yet, as well, UN-Habitat, this year is entering into agreements with two sister agencies of the UN – UNODC and UNV – to mobilize resources towards supporting the monitoring capacities of cities in the region. This of course will begin with a pilot initiative right here in the City of

Durban – where a minimum of USD 150,000 will be spent in the coming year to support the city’s documentation and evaluation efforts with a view to revamping its Safer Cities approach to one that pays greater attention to the aspects of monitoring and achieving measurable results on the prevention of crime and violence in line with the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) and the soon to be adopted New Urban Agenda this October 2016 in Quito. It is also our hope that in this new phase, we shall mobilize the innovation of private sector to support this monitoring capacities for cities, as well as support the cities efforts to exchange knowledge, learning, innovation and facilitate solutions at the regional level. In this aspect, let me recognize the participation of Microsoft with whom we are seeking to finalize a tripartite agreement with the City of Durban to launch the follow-up AFUS virtual platform that will enable us to continue with the learning exchange even beyond the close of this week’s event.

Dear Mayors, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We remain a committed friend in this quest for consolidation and systematization of safer cities initiatives across Africa and indeed the rest of the world as we embark on the next phase of “Safer Cities 2.0 in the New Urban Agenda” that will require greater innovation, partnerships and learning from practice.

The creation of AFUS is a direct follow-up to the recommendations made at a gathering of African cities hosted by Kuwait City in 2011 that discussed at length 15 years of practice of Africa on the global approach on Safer Cities. The Kuwait declaration led to the Africities session in Dakar to adopt Durban’s bid to host the permanent secretariat of AFUS with Mayor Parks Tau leading the recommendation at that time with the focus on taking the next step, from piloting the safer cities approach to large scale replication of the approach across Africa. All issues raised in the Kuwait outcome document is now translated into the Background Document of this Learning Exchange. At the heart of this outcome document is the need for the realization of “Effective Institutions, effective institutions, and effective institutions” and “implementation, implementation and implementation’. I recall, in particular, the focus on ensuring the integration of city safety strategies into the mainstream of urban planning, urban management and urban governance. Today, this focus is reinforced by a call in the ‘New Urban Agenda’ for safer cities policies of greater inclusion, *"leaving no one behind"*. This is not only right, socially, politically, but an economic imperative, to attend to Africa’s growing marginalized populations living in slums and outside the margins of access to the benefits of city life.

I know these are issues on which all of us agree. Our expectations for AFUS, therefore, are not that we discuss the same issues all over. Nowadays there are far too many events on Africa, about Africa, that end up saying the same things. We know what is needed, we know what has to be done to improve safety in cities as a quality of life issue and using tested holistic and

comprehensive approaches at the city level. The fundamental question we could address at AFUS is that of the rather large gap between the many crime diagnosis performed today and the need for problem-solving.

Using research, we need to carefully revisit new terms that are coined up from a donor drive perspective on the concept of safer cities: from a multi-dimensional urban vulnerability reduction framework to in recent times, the fragile cities and strong cities concepts – to build on the concept of crime prevention rather than reinvent the wheel.

And it is in the creation of institutions such as AFUS that will enable cities in Africa today take stock of their own practices of crime prevention and seek to preserve and build upon these working practices to inform resolute, integrated and strategic responses for cities in the face of crime and violence. AFUS cities must now adapt to the challenges of Africa in the 21st century, remembering that the number one mission in 1996 remains valid today.

The theme of the Learning Exchange is “Towards the Creation of Safer Cities Vision 2030”. This implies leveraging on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063 that all provide that clear vision to guide the future course of existing municipal safer cities initiatives.

Some may feel 2030 is too far away. To the contrary, in our planning process, Africa’s vision has suffered too much short termism. Africa needs a long-term view of her interest, her future. Such as how our cities safety scenarios in 2030 are set based on indicators that are defined today, or how our cities will be redesigned differently to serve and enhance the prevention principles towards more socially cohesive and integrated communities.

The Africa Safer Cities we want is in reality no different from what our founding fathers defined twenty years ago. What is different is that in the last 20 years the world has undergone rapid shifts in its urbanization, which so to speak has “intensified” the focus on city build and in many ways reinforced the localization of security and development agendas around the world.

Our task now is to ensure that Africa leverages on the urban advantage as a source of development and for the realization of safer cities. But here is the problem. We must reinvent and re-engineer our development-financing model. On this continent, the over-reliance on external donor funds and sources to steer the development and implementation of our city safety and development strategies is far curtailing the possibilities of effective implementation on the ground. This applies not only to financial power, but other sources and capabilities such as our human resources utilization strategy within municipal governments. The future that is dependent on foreign goodwill is no future.



It is here that I specially turn to our host city, the City of Durban, as a great illustration for the rest of Africa, on how they have succeeded to finance and institutionalize their own safety strategies after three years of initial funding support by UN-Habitat. Today, the municipal government has fully established a safer cities department integrated in the main budget of the Council with over 20 staff and is directed by a Deputy City Manager with a budget of about USD 1.2 million per annum independent from the Metropolitan Police outfit. It is our hope that the municipality will benefit even more of its role as the permanent secretariat of the Africa Forum for Urban Safety (AFUS) to strengthen safer cities as a cross cutting interdepartmental framework in its long term development planning framework and that it shall become a base for the realization of an Africa Institute of Learning growing out of the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE).

As I conclude, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking at the future of the AFUS in the context of the achievements made to-date on the Safer Cities Program in Africa, three critical issues can be identified:

- The necessity to capitalize more systematically the Safer Cities experience in Africa in the last 20 years and to disseminate this knowledge at the local, national and international levels
- The importance of developing a long term partnership and collaboration between research institutions and urban safety and crime practitioners in the form of institutes of learning, city safety laboratories and centers of excellence.
- The need to reinforce the policy framework at the national and local levels in order for urban safety to become an integral part of urban planning and management through national urban policies.

As I conclude, Ladies and Gentlemen, the next twelve months will be a momentous period for the AFUS permanent secretariat here in Durban to reinforce its institutionalized presence and more importantly through the city's inter-governmental relations to help drive AFUS operations towards the realization of the emerging critical issues that I have just pointed out. It is a logistical challenge but for which I believe you are well oiled and prepared to confront. The road map you will approve out of this Inaugural Learning Exchange will require greater collaboration with national government, the South Africa Association of Local Governments, the UCLGA and of course the Africa Union to ensure its sustainability for the long haul.

Ladies and Gentlemen. This being my last regional event to preside before I retire, I would like, once again, to thank the City of Durban and the Government of the Republic of South Africa

who have over the years accorded me great cooperation and collaboration in steering the human settlements agenda forward not only in South Africa but at the continental and global levels. I will be stepping down in September this year, after almost three momentous and exciting decades at the United Nations. It has been an incredible opportunity to be part of the leadership of UN-Habitat at a time of very deep and fundamental changes in the urbanization of Africa.

It has been a pleasure to work and lead with the support of the highly committed and talented staff. We have done our very best. I hope I have merited the confidence you put on me when you requested for technical support in 1998 towards the development of a safer cities initiative here – and which together with Dr. Franz Vanderschueren, we mobilized financial support from the Government of Netherlands to achieve the city's safety strategy.

I am equally happy to have the leadership of Prof. Oyebanji Oyeyinka as the Director for Africa who together with Juma Assiago, the Coordinator of the Safer Cities Programme are equally excited and committed to the cause of African cities and to the successful implementation of AFUS. There remains much to do in the next twelve months, in particular ensuring an orderly communication among cities and stakeholders in Africa and rolling into place some key initiatives underway.

God bless you all and thank you for your attention.