4TH SOUTH AFRICAN URBAN CONFERENCE

4-5 MARCH 2015

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF TSHWANE
THE INNOVATION HUB

Are cities driving local and national development?

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Introduction

Welcome to the report of the 2015 Urban Conference, which took place at the Innovation Centre, City of Tshwane on 4–5 March 2015. Nearly 300 (297) people from the public, private and academic sectors attended the conference and gave very positive feedback. For the delegates, some of the highlights were the networking opportunities and conversations, the discussions and knowledge sharing, and the calibre/relevance of debates.

This year is an important year for South Africa's urban agenda. Public consultations are taking place around South Africa's first national urban policy, the Department of Cooperative Governance-led Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF), while later in the year two pre-eminent pan-African urban development events will be taking place in South African cities: in June 2015, the African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum (ACCSF) hosted by the City of Tshwane, and in December 2015, the 7th Africities Summit convened by the United Cities and Local Government of Africa (UCLG Africa) and hosted by the City of Johannesburg.

The 4th South African Urban Conference was convened by the South African Cities Network (SACN), in partnership with the City of Tshwane, the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the Dialogue Facility of the European Union Delegation to South Africa. The conference brought together urban sector experts and stakeholders who participated in an interactive and rigorous programme of dialogue and engagement, with the aim of:

- Facilitating urban policy and planning dialogue with key urban development stakeholders, experts and partners (local and international);
- Interrogating and enhancing preliminary data and findings towards the 2016 State of South African Cities Report (SOCR IV);
- Contributing to strengthening of the IUDF; and
- Building up national content towards the ACCSF and 7th Africities Summit.

Opening Plenary

Delegates were greeted by a dynamic, entertaining and engaging event that set the scene for the conference. The *Spatial Change and Continuity in South African Cities* multimedia production combined provocative guerrilla theatre, flash mob elements and displays of data-driven animations (maps, infographics) to deliver the complex messages about the interfaces between human stories, politics and research. The key messages and storylines came from the work of SACN and CSIR, with visualisations from the STEPSA (Spatial Temporal Evidence for Planning South Africa) initiative.

The production showed how simplified, modern and diverse communication methods can be used to strengthen the understanding of the link between research, public policy and the impacts at ground level. It was well received by delegates and was thereafter referred to by the high-level panel as '*the* keynote address'.

SITHOLE MBANGA (CEO OF SACN) and plenary facilitator welcomed everyone to the 4th South African Urban Conference and introduced the high-level panel of speakers.

CLLR RAMOKGOPA (MAYOR OF TSHWANE AND CHAIRMAN OF SOCR IV) gave the welcome address, acknowledging the conference partners: the DCOG, SACN, SAGLA and the SA-EU Strategic Partnership, and sharing the City of Tshwane's vision, that 'by 2055 we will be a liveable, resilient and inclusive City where citizens enjoy a high quality of life, have access to social, economic and enhanced political freedoms, where citizens are partners in the development of an African Capital City of Excellence'. He spoke of some of the interventions underway aimed at significantly reshaping the face of the city, the free Wi-Fi services throughout the city, various waste and water management initiatives and other green economy projects.

He highlighted the importance of the Urban Conference in providing a platform for urban local government role-players to define how to drive local and national development, in particular addressing the following questions:

- What is the meaning of spatial transformation for our cities?
- What are the stories to be told about our cities' productivity, inclusiveness and governance?
- What are the good stories that we have to tell?
- What are the bad stories we have to tell?
- What are the tough messages we have to send from this conference?

Cllr Ramokgopa explained how feedback from urban experts and stakeholders at the conference will contribute to the State of City Report 2015, to ensure a compelling and impactful story of the state of South African cities, and that the conference's aim was to obtain a wider range of voices that will infuse the SOCR process. He encouraged participants to admire the results of the Instagram competition (crowd-sourcing visual commentary from the youth), to enjoy the World Café Conversations (at which experts discuss city issues), and to visit the Talking Heads exhibition, showcasing a range of urban initiatives.

He ended by calling on fellow SACN members to learn from each other and from the experts at the conference, to define a pathway for spatial transformation for our urban spaces.

MINISTER PRAVIN GORDHAN (MINISTER OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS) gave the keynote speech in which he highlighted the need to define an urbanisation model that promotes resilient, inclusive and equitable cities, in the context of dramatic population growth, and is aligned with the objectives outlined in South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP). The IUDF and the development of the 2016 State of Cities Report offered an opportunity to define a South African urban agenda.

He explained that, because the battle for sustainable and inclusive development will be won or lost in cities, the government recently launched its Back-to-Basics Approach, with the aim of ensuring a well-functioning and efficient local government system in support of the national developmental agenda. Minister Gordhan said that this approach was about getting the non-negotiable basics of urban management and governance right before focusing on more sophisticated things, in order to have an impact on the lives of ordinary South Africans. It was about striking a balance between getting the basics right and keeping on track with the global discourse in order to remain competitive. The five pillars were Putting People First, Service Delivery, Good Governance, Sound Financial Management and Capable Institutions and Administration, and were well aligned to the City Prosperity Index developed by the UNHABITAT.

Minister Gordhan highlighted the areas that local government needs to focus on:

- **Understanding the local political economy**, the various (competing) interests and which decisions will benefit the majority of residents, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalised. For this, cities need to employ people with the right economic skills and capabilities and ask practical questions about: creating an environment that is conducive for enterprise development; supporting township economies and home-based enterprises; building partnerships with the private sector and other role-players; and implementing innovative programmes to create job opportunities.
- **Improving time taken and quality of decisions**, as this affects the growth of our cities. Simple things, such as red tape, enforcement of by-laws, decision-making processes and turn-around times, are an indication of our ability to contribute to development.
- **Reversing the apartheid spatial patterns**, whereby the poor are located far from social and economic opportunities and so have to spend a lot of time and money to access these opportunities. The urgent need to transform our cities will require strong intergovernmental collaboration.
- **Developing and maintaining city infrastructure**, as most cities face worrying backlogs and under-invest in infrastructure maintenance. Infrastructure is a tool for ensuring inclusive development and equity
- **Developing public spaces**, to increase community cohesion, civic identity and the safety and security of lives and property. This determines the quality of life of our citizens.
- **Encouraging equity and social inclusion**, which includes protecting the rights of minority and vulnerable groups, gender equality and civic participation in city affairs.
- **Promoting strong leadership**, as the quality of both the political and administrative leadership will determine the extent to which developmental goals will be realised. A strong political will and good governance systems are needed to take unpopular decisions for the long-term development of the city, as opposed to short-termism that has come to characterise some of the decisions we make.

Minister Gordhan called on delegates to consider how cities can be transformed spatially, socially and economically, and to understand that everyone – the different levels of government, research and academic institutions, private sector and civil society – would need to work together and be aligned with the shared vision as outlined in city strategies.

A panel discussion took place, between Cllr Tau (Mayor of Johannesburg, Chair of SACN), Deputy Minister Nel (DCoG), Cllr Ramokgopa and Cllr Manyoni (Chair of SALGA and Mayor of Mangaung), facilitated by Sithole Mbanga. Each of the panel members were asked to make a short address.

MAYOR PARKS TAU picked up on what Minister Gordhan had said regarding the relationship between theory and practice. Historically, the mission was to construct more equal cities but, in reality, houses for the poor have been built on the periphery, perpetuating the apartheid legacy. He explained the thinking behind the Corridors of Freedom, which aim to recreate an integrated city that is more equitable and has higher intensity of land uses and densities. He also admitted that articulating the vision for the corridors is one thing, and implementation is much more difficult – however, what was clear was the need to rethink how we invest (as well as the policies), to engage with other sectors (e.g. property and academia) and government spheres, and to realise that suburban-style developments are no longer possible in cities.

DEPUTY MINISTER NEL spoke about the IUDF, which responds to the chapters in the NDP (especially Chapter 8) that deals with transformation of our spatial economy and to the call by the President in his 2012 State of the Nation Address for South Africa to come up with an IUDF that ensures national government and provincial government work closely with local government.

The IUDF is about coordinated investments in people and places in pursuit of a vision of liveable, safe, resource-efficient cities and towns that are socially integrated, economically inclusive and globally competitive, where residents actively participate in urban life.

The four pillars underlying the IUDF are inclusion (access), governance, growth and spatial transformation. The IUDF's eight levers are: integrated spatial planning, integrated transport and mobility, integrated sustainable human settlements, integrated urban infrastructure, effective land governance and management, inclusive economic development, empowered active communities and effective urban governance. He acknowledged that many of these elements are not new and that certain issues have prevented the country from moving more swiftly ahead, such as:

- Land – access to and availability of land, who controls that land, and what use that land is put to. The way in which our property market works also influences why housing is developed on the periphery of cities, far away from opportunities.
- Balance of brownfield and greenfield development – why is it more difficult to transform/upgrade existing infrastructure or to develop inner cities than to build new/extend beyond the urban edges?
- Alignment of government departments and spheres – integrated development plans (IDPs) are more exercises in ritual instead of proper integrated development plans. National and provincial government have come a long way but are not there yet.
- Shift from housing to human settlements – there is still a long way to go in order to change expectations etc.
- NIMBYism – supporting the idea of development but not wanting urban development in their neighbourhoods.
- Pressure on municipalities to relax their urban edges, which contributes to ongoing sprawl.

Deputy Minister Nel recognised that the reality is that municipalities can be divided into three categories (1/3 each): doing well/excellent; doing OK but with some challenges; and dysfunctional. To address this, the government had introduced the Back-to-Basics Approach, which puts people first (i.e. at the centre of planning, service delivery etc.), is about fulfilling basic services (e.g. filling potholes), good government (e.g. effective ward committees), good financial management (programmes cannot be implemented without good financial management), and developing a sound institutional basis in municipalities (many dysfunctional municipalities do not have planners, engineers or municipal managers who can do the job).

MAYOR THABO MANYONI brought a broader aspect to the discussion, pointing out that cities of the world face common problems: unemployment, poverty, xenophobia, immigration and consequent pressures on infrastructure, and segregation of populations. He highlighted the need for cities in Africa to come together to deal with their common issues and to go back to the basics at a conceptual level – what type of world do we want to build? For example, sustainable cities where people live well, free from diseases etc. To achieve this, he suggested that mechanisms such as peer reviews should be created, so that countries can measure what they are doing, and that countries need to learn from each other and to come up with a common action plan. The Africities Summit in December 2015, would provide the opportunity to look at the common challenges facing African cities, e.g. informal businesses, townships economies.

MAYOR RAMOKGOPA spoke about the SACN, which is now a collaboration of eight big South African cities – it was nine cities until last year, when the City of Cape Town decided to no longer be involved. He stated that the fundamental question for cities was how to reconfigure their space, in order to achieve spatial equality and a non-racial South Africa. It was not simply about transport, although transport is a means to achieve spatial equality. Many other issues needed to be examined: the productivity of cities; where to make investments (e.g. social or economic infrastructure); the sustainability of cities (energy mix, water scarcity); inclusivity in all its manifestations (economic, spatial justice and other, e.g. ability to access internet connectivity); the governance of cities (actions that are consistent with the public's expectations – key for this is listening and responding to public's issues); finances and financing of cities; political economy of cities – how can policy be used as a weapon to address many of these challenges. These were some of the issues to be covered in the next SOCR, which will be published before the 2016 local government elections and is intended to help the new administrations to better run their cities.

Responses to comments from delegates

Alternative energy supply

(Cllr Ramkgopa) The unreliability of energy supply affects economic growth and thus South Africa's ability to meet the NDP objectives. Interventions within the Gauteng City Region include the promise by the City of Tshwane to deliver 100 000 megawatts in renewable energy. However, more important is the energy mix, which creates a conundrum for cities. Cities that choose to go the renewable energy route also undermine their revenue generation. The solution lies in finding alternative sources of income (to offset lost income from electricity), in order to incentivise cities to go the renewable route – before being forced to go the renewable energy route because of climate change.

A new planning paradigm

(Cllr Tau) South Africa needs to look at what planning paradigm to adopt: one in which the municipality sets the agenda (like in Europe) or one where town planning applications drive the agenda (which is happening currently). There was also a need to create the environment where urban issues have a champion.

(Deputy Minister Nel) One of the slogans often used about the IUDF is a 'new deal' for SA's cities and towns, which carries with it certain ideological echoes. Nevertheless, the foundation stones of the paradigm are found in the NDP and other national documents. Urbanisation is taking place in the context of post-apartheid and, given our history, the linkages between the rural and urban are integral – it is not simply a matter of lip service. Any approach to urbanisation would be wrong if urban-rural linkages are not taken into account. We need to get our planning instruments right. At the moment, a process is ongoing between departments regarding the best location for SPLUMA (currently rural affairs).

Whose responsibility?

(Cllr Manyoni) The basic problem in South Africa is that people ask what is government doing for us rather than adopting a 'my city-my future' approach, i.e. it is our responsibility, not just government's responsibility. Any action plan for South Africa should be our action plan – the government's job is to provide the means to achieve the action plan.

(Minister Gordhan) Macro conditions need to be understood in order to see what needs to be done at the micro level. The problem with the 'us' narrative is that in some cases there is an 'us' but in others there is a 'you' and a 'me'. It is also important to be aware that urban refers not only to metros – there are many urban centres around the country that also have lots of problems. Hopefully the SACN will eventually cover the other cities, not just metros.

Looking forward to the next 10–20 years, some of the questions to consider are:

- Where are the real new towns going to come from?
- What will the configuration of new urban spaces created in the 21st century (without the legacy of the past) look like?
- How will we design such new urban spaces?

In other words, it will be about creating a new future rather than correcting the past.

Plenary II

DR GECI KARURI-SEBINA (SACN, EXECUTIVE MANAGER: PROGRAMMES) gave a presentation of the main themes for the State of Cities Report (SOCR IV) that will be published in 2016. This will be the fourth State of Cities Report and follows:

- SOCR I (2004), which looked at how cities are important and can be drivers of social change.
- SOCR II (2006), which found that the apartheid form in our cities remains largely unchanged.
- SOCR III (2011), which took the view that cities are resilient but face key pressures and vulnerabilities, which require intervention and support.

The SOCR's aims are: monitoring city development and service delivery performance against local benchmarks, national urban development priorities, and international development targets; influencing national policy and strategy through more assertive messages about what is required to achieve the desired urban development outcomes; and advising and informing the plans and strategies of cities by generating evidence and insights.

The purpose of the SOCR IV is to present a perspective on the performance and conditions of South Africa's largest cities, with a focus on the member cities of the SACN. Specifically, the report intends to: (i) access the progress made by South African cities over the past 20 years in relation to key development roles and outcomes; (ii) review strategic problems and opportunities facing our cities; and (iii) communicate essential messages about the planning, development and management of cities to the next generation of civic leaders and officials who will be taking office after the 2016 municipal elections.

The guiding theme is: South African cities as effective drivers of local and national development.

SOCR IV will contain the following sections (see also Chapter Conversations section for more details):

- Introduction: Status Quo and Long-Range Prospects
- Chapter 1: Spatial Transformation As The Key That Cities Hold
- Chapter 2: Inclusive Cities
- Chapter 3: Productive Cities
- Chapter 4: Sustainable Cities
- Chapter 5: Finance and Innovation
- Chapter 6: Well-governed Cities
- Chapter 7: An Enabling Environment
- Conclusions and Policy Messages
- References
- Profile of each SACN member city
- Urban Indicators Almanac

In addition, the SACN will produce a People's Guide to the SOCR IV, with the aim of disseminating the information to a broader public. The timeline for the SOCR IV is as follows:

2014	2015												2016		
Oct-Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Prep															
	Draft I														
				Draft 2											
							Review								
								Revise / Update							
										Consult					
											Edit & Repurpose				
													Design & Print		
															Launch

DR MODJADJI MALAHLELA (DCOG, EXECUTIVE MANAGER: URBAN DVEELOPMENT) gave a presentation on the IUDF: the New Deal.

The IUDF process started in 2012, and a discussion document was published in 2013, followed by the draft policy, which was approved by Cabinet in September 2014. The public consultation process is currently underway. The IUDF is a response to various chapters in the National Development Plan (NDP) especially Chapter 8 'Transforming human settlements and the national space economy', and its vision for urban South Africa. The aim of the IUDF is to foster a shared understanding across government and society about how best to manage urbanisation and achieve the goals of economic development, job creation and improved living conditions for our people.

The IUDF's vision is 'liveable, safe, resource-efficient cities and towns that are socially integrated, economically inclusive and globally competitive, where residents actively participate in urban life'. The IUDF's four goals are spatial transformation (reverse inefficient and exclusionary practices), the inclusion imperative (improve access and inclusion of the marginalised), the economic imperative (improve the productive capacity in cities and addressing income poverty), and the institutional imperative (establish proper governance systems and strengthen intergovernmental collaboration). Three cross-cutting issues are also considered: rural-urban linkages, urban safety and disaster risk reduction/climate change.

Dr Malahlela explained the eight levers that will be used to achieve these goals, highlighting the key issues and questions for discussion.

Lever	Key issues
(1) Integrated spatial planning	• Spatial transformation to reverse undesirable settlement patterns. • Contain urban sprawl and increase densities. • Improve spatial planning and coordination among the spheres of government. • Building spatial planning and governance capacities at local government.
(2) Integrated transport and mobility	• Enhanced mobility and connectivity. • Reducing the time and cost spent on travel. • Reduced emissions as people choose to use public transport instead of private cars.
(3) Integrated sustainable human settlements	• Improved quality of life for all inhabitants who have access to all basic services. • Multi-functional spaces with more housing and economic choices. • Well-serviced, safe and vibrant communities. • Green spaces and social facilities.
(4) Integrated urban infrastructure	• Ensure universal access to basic social and other services, which supports equality and inclusivity. • Environmental protection, through reduced emissions and protection of the ecological resources. • Fragmented governance and funding sources for urban infrastructure. • Insufficient funding for new capital investments and poor maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Lever	Key issues
(5) Effective land governance and management	• Disposal of state land at high, market-related value. • Difficulties in accessing strategically located land owned by SOEs and government. • Tenure uncertainty and security especially in informal settlements. • Slow land-use planning and management processes.
(6) Inclusive economic development	• Insufficient focus on economic development neglected in many urban areas. • Informal sector dismissed or marginalised. • Lack of differentiation in response to unique conditions faced by various towns and cities.
(7) Empowered active communities	• Lack of engagement of communities in local affairs. • Lack of adequate skills and experience to engage within government and civil society. • Lack of innovative, co-produced solutions for service delivery. • Lack of understanding of government structures and operations. • Insufficient forums to promote participation and promote social cohesion.
(8) Effective urban governance	• Lack of structured and systematic engagements with the city leadership. • Lack of appropriate skills and competent staff. • Lack of differentiation in approach to growth and development. • Uneven intergovernmental engagement and negotiation capabilities regarding execution of functional powers.

The IUDF aims is to (i) integrate existing initiatives, (ii) provide recommendations for identified policy gaps. The consultation process ends in March 2015, and proposals are invited for submission for the implementation plan (immediate, medium and long term).

Comments made
• The planning regime/tools (e.g. SPLUMA) must be used to address the issue of communal land, which municipalities cannot value or get rates/taxes from. As rural areas become peri-urban areas, people are grabbing communal land but not paying any rates/taxes.
• Despite all these challenges, cities have not collapsed, which indicates that they are doing something right.
• Although we are working to build liveable and sustainable cities, people are more concerned (especially older generations) about moving out of cities so that they can be buried rather than cremated.

LEARNING GROUPS

In between sessions, delegates were allocated to different learning groups to discuss various questions. These groups provided an opportunity for delegates to network and to speak about the issues that all cities are facing. The 'word clouds' below contain the words used to describe issues, with greater prominence being given to words that appeared more frequently.

The priority issues for cities

The top issues for the SOCR

Chapter Conversations

The chapter conversations allowed delegates to share knowledge and perspectives, to provide input to the chapter content and to strengthen the evidence base. After a presentation giving an overview of the chapter narrative, key messages and remaining uncertainties, delegates were divided into groups in order to consider the strength of what was presented, whether the storyline was relevant/adequate, how the argument could be strengthened and what elements were missing. In the second session, the evidence base and indicators proposed were discussed.

CHAPTER 1: THE SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION IMPERATIVE FOR SA CITIES – STACEY-LEIGH JOSEPH

(Host: Nellie Lester)

> *City-making is a collective process that has to involve public sector, private sector and users of urban space and take both long- and short-term perspectives*

This chapter serves as a focusing introduction to the SOCR IV, discussing how the three key built environment components (land, human settlement and mobility) have interacted (or not) to achieve the desired integrated spatial and developmental outcomes. An analysis of the key issues and challenges will provide the framework for interrogating urban spatial performance according to SACN's themes of inclusivity, sustainability, productivity and urban governance.

Spatial transformation is defined as a programmatic, plan-oriented, project-directed effort to change the unequal access to and occupation/ownership of socio-politically differentiated space in South Africa – a multi-dimensional, open-ended, fluid process of change, organically linked to the past, present and future (Williams 2000). The development agenda has to attend to both short-term concerns (getting the basics right) and the long-term agenda (fundamental reconfiguration of spaces and relations).

Spatial transformation is driven by cities and metros but also requires coordinated interventions by other spheres of government to align transformative agenda, and by non-state actors who contribute to shaping this city. Critical issues that affect the built environment are: power and politics (ideological, social, economic interests which influence spatial interventions), and integration and alignment (both vertical and horizontal). Built environment functions need to be aligned and integrated both within cities and among spheres of government. Aspects to be considered include institutional (management, finance, processes/structures etc.) and capacity and skills required for the complexity of transforming South African cities.

Cities require the capability and maturity to drive both short and long-range plans and interventions. Short term, this means improving administrative effectiveness ('back to basics') and access (public transport), having more responsive (formal and informal) settlement planning and development, and linking economic logic to development logic. Long term, this requires the restructuring of urban forms (change peripheral location of poor, black people; mixed-income and mixed-use neighbourhoods; more efficient form), integrated built environment delivery through devolution, and an integrated, multi-modal transport network.

Key messages from the discussion
- What does a transformed city look like?
- Differentiated approach needed but based on key principles: efficiency, inclusivity (which is unique to South Africa), and institutional transformation, and raises questions around

whether it is possible to transform our spaces within the current institutional structure. Decisions are taken at local level regardless of national or provincial government.

- City making is a collective process (requires public, private and city users). However, different agencies/parties pulling in different directions. Does too much democracy lead to stuckness? Where is the centre of power in terms of city making? Are we leveraging the private sector properly?
- Spatial planning and land need to guide land development process, not react to developers' applications. How can policy incentives be used to influence forces that maintain the 'status quo'? Perhaps charge developers for full cost of developments (but capital is also not captive to cities).
- Sustainable human settlements – elements central to transformation are: location, liveable, mixed use and income. High density is an issue, but there is no appetite for high-density housing, which is seen as a transitional option (e.g. for students until the time comes to have a family).
- Mobility and access – transport interventions are important, as they can be an immediate unifier but can also have long-term consequences. There have major cost implications and impact on land. People determining policy use private vehicles and do not always have experience/understanding of using public transport.

CHAPTER 2: THE PRODUCTIVITY OF CITIES – SHIRLEY ROBINSON

(Host: Diane Abrahams)

Mainstream economic development and overcome silos in cities.
Spatial form matters in terms of productivity.

The main aim of the chapter is to understand how apartheid's legacy (of dispersed and distorted spatial settlement patterns) may be transformed in ways that strengthen city and city-region competitiveness, enhance transformative resilience, and intensify economic inclusion. The overarching message is that spatial form matters for strong and productive city economies, and that spatial transformation is key to cities becoming effective drivers of local and national government.

1 What is a productive city: introductory section outlines the chapter's analytical framework, extending to city spatial transformation at the sub-metro level to examine the drivers of strong and productive city economies.
2 The economic role and performance of SA's cities 1994 to 2014, structured into the themes of reflecting, celebrating and reorienting. Cities' economic performance are analysed in relation to six key drivers of economic success: innovation and creativity, human capital, specialisation, connectivity, investment, and resource efficiency.
3 City levers for spatial transformation that underpin economic strength, extending the city competitiveness analytical frame to city spatial form and transformation at nodal level. It explores whether and how economic density and distance between primary and secondary economic nodes (business districts) underpin connectivity, flow and inter-linkages in city and city-region space in a way that enhances firm-level innovative and investment performance as well as employment and economic participation.
4 Township economies; how does cities' spatial form promote or inhibit inclusive economic development, including taking a closer look at township and informal economies, and inner city regeneration interventions.
5 Are cities appropriately structured to lead economic development, with a focus on operational and organisational models and investigating why economic development has not been as high a city governance priority.

Key messages from the discussion

- Mainstream economic development in cities (currently fragmented and unclear who is primarily responsible).
- Spatial form matters for productivity, and cities underestimate the tools they have at their disposal i.e. rates policy, zoning and planning.
- Township development (1) balancing act between maintaining areas that contribute most to the tax base and developing disadvantaged areas – limited funds for developing township economies; (2) townships are part of the urban fabric, and so can we change language to primary/secondary nodes; (3) foreigners' businesses in townships flourish compared to locals because foreigners have strong networks that strengthen their business models.
- Value chains are across various boundaries even extending internationally, so how can cities position themselves competitively?
- Coherence (alignment) between the different spheres of government.
- The voice of business in terms of being included in the SOCR. Cities do not create jobs; businesses do.
- Locational decisions of firms are affected by issues that are not directly linked to economic development, e.g. getting the basics right (cleaning pavements), safety and security, speed in mobility/ access and seamless processes for doing business (investment climate filtering).
- Indicators for city productivity, how do we measure and track overtime?
- Leadership aspect in terms of city positioning.

CHAPTER 3: SUSTAINABLE CITIES – GILLIAN MAREE

(Host: Dora Nteo)

Sustainability is a journey, not a destination – improve, change, adapt. Successful sustainability is about being able to see and make the connections along the journey

The chapter interrogates whether (and how) South African cities are leveraging emerging opportunities for inclusive sustainable city transitions. The starting point is to move beyond the 'green agenda' but also to be honest about certain issues where needed. The challenge is that cities drive economic growth and development but also consume materials and energy, produce waste, and emit pollution and greenhouse gases, etc. A number of drivers of change (e.g. economic change and unemployment, population dynamics, climate change effects) affect the quality of life through food, water, energy, transport, waste and so on.

Urban sustainability definition: 'a *sustainable, resource efficient city* can be defined as a city that is significantly decoupled from resource exploitation and ecological impacts and is socially, economically and ecologically sustainable in the long term'. (Adapted from Peter and Swilling, 2012)

A review of changes made by cities since the 2011 SOCR finds that implementation of sustainability practices has increased, and some of the cities have sustainability agendas embedded in strategic and Mayoral offices. However, cities are still grappling with energy, water, waste and land management issues, and decoupling remains a challenge and necessity.

Success factors for transitioning to sustainable, resource efficient cities include: integration (cities that embrace the core principles of sustainability have a holistic response); urban divide and spatial transformation (cities are often failing to deal with inequalities, leading to socio-political instability); governance and institutional framework; smart urban design and

place making (inclusiveness and low-footprint design urban design and spatial planning); finance; and innovation.

The reality is that South African cities are at different stages of transitioning towards sustainability, and have chosen different priorities. The synergies and conflicts between 'the sustainable city' and 'the inclusive city' need to be more fully explored, for example concerns around the inclusivity of the transition to sustainability. The persistent legacy of spatial planning and new developments constrain achievements of higher urban densities, more sustainable transport systems, and access of the poor to opportunities. There is a danger that short-term pressures may pose a significant threat to the achievement of long-term strategic objectives. Therefore, bold, local government leadership is required, although many changes are driven by national government or by the market.

Key messages from the discussion

- Should there even be a sustainability chapter? If yes, then the chapter must make bold statements about sustainability in South African cities.
- Cities are starting to include sustainability in their plans, which is positive, but a policy–implementation gap exists.
- Local governance and leadership is important. (There is a need to separate social and political, instead of having socio-political.)
- Non-negotiables: securing water, equitable social access, protecting ecological assets, transit-oriented development, waste management.
- Social demand for housing vs. land and plans to address the demand.
- Regulatory reform (MFMA) and intergovernmental alignment; urban and rural linkages.
- Avoid making poor decisions that create intractable long-term problems.
- Role of behaviour, aspirations and how we live and treat our cities.
- Inclusivity, productivity, sustainability.
- Finance for sustainability projects (and revenue).
- Sustainability is a journey not a destination (sustainable development vs. sustainability).
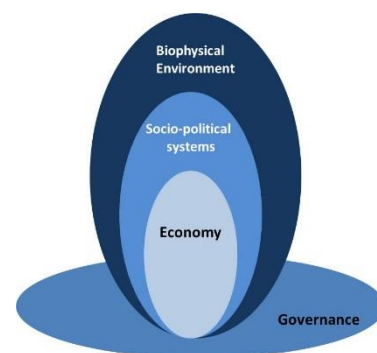
CHAPTER 4: INCLUSIVE CITIES – NISA MAMMON

(Host: Ahmedi Vawda)

Inclusive cities should be driven by ideology, normative values and focus on the urban poor as per the NDP

This chapter considers the nature and extent of inclusivity in South African cities by reflecting on what urban inclusion and access means, specifically in relation to social issues and access to urban services and facilities, and by exploring urban inclusion and barriers to access.

It looks at what is meant by an 'inclusive city', 'a good/sustainable city' and 'right to the city'. SACN has defined an inclusive city as one that provides all 'citizens' with decent public services, protects citizens' rights and freedom, and fosters the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of its inhabitants.

Key development challenges are urban and health inequalities, migration patterns, informal settlements, residents with weak rights to the city, urban HIV prevalence and fragile urban livelihood systems.

Access to the city is examined through the city structure (urban sprawl vs. compact city), access to basic services/urban infrastructure, access to public and non-motorised transport, and access to government employment programmes. Ways to protect urban citizens' rights and freedom are through the use of (and access to) public space and urban integration.

The key questions to be answered by this chapter include:

1. What has been done at city scale to promote the inclusive city based on the principles of spatial justice, sustainability, resilience, quality and efficiency?
2. What policies exist to facilitate the inclusive city, and how have they been implemented if at all?
3. Do cities deliberately plan for inclusion and if so, what institutional arrangements are in place to implement and finance 'inclusive programmes'?
4. How have different cities adopted national and provincial policy frameworks to ensure urban inclusiveness?
5. How have cities facilitated or hindered their own policies and actions?

Key messages from the discussion

- Inclusive cities are driven by ideology, normative values and a focus on the urban poor as per the NDP.
- The above must be framed by a rights-based approach, responsive to both sustainable livelihoods and building capabilities.
- There must be a strong relationship between addressing inequality and raising capability. This speaks to *inter alia* education and better access to health care.
- Theories of change, together with a social justice emphasis, contrast with practices that reinforce and reproduce exclusion.
- Normative constructions of citizenship reproduce and compound exclusion. Who do we mean by 'citizens': those who are taxpaying, property owning, and contributing? What about the poor, marginalised, informal, immigrants and structurally excluded? Emerging forms of citizenship are challenging this. The production and co-production of economy build society and the city, which equate to citizenship.
- The inter-relation between the urban demographic (youth @64%) and the urban dividend (81% of GVA) is crucial.
- Urban safety, a big concern in South Africa, has direct effects on inclusion. Violence/crime is a threat to public life and people making the most of the city (public space vs. retreating to private space), and the collective sense of ownership.

CHAPTER 5: CITY GOVERNANCE AND GOVERNABILITY – GODFREY MUSVOTO

(Host: Seana Nkhahle)

> *Need for more interdepartmental and intergovernmental alignment for spatial transformation initiatives. National housing and land socio-political and legislative context need to be revised in ways that proactively support local government spatial imperatives*

Cities are expected to fulfil their current governance mandates in relation to legislation and national, provincial and local government policies and programmes. This chapter considers whether cities have been well-governed over the past 5–20 years, through interrogating local participation and involvement, urban management, administrative and financial management, and institutional capacity to carry out their developmental mandates.

(1) Urban management approaches: used to coordinate and integrate public and private activities, to tackle development challenges of the entire city or a particular place (e.g. IDPs).
(2) Local participation and involvement: voter registration and turn out, ward committees, citizen satisfaction vs. civic protests and the extent of implementation of Batho Pele principles.
(3) Local government capacity: individual (human), institutional and environmental.
(4) Administration and financial management: compliance with audit requirements

The chapter will look at the need to revisit the role of ward committees as one of the primary vehicles of community participation and to improve the alignment of inter-departmental plans. It will examine the internal capacity challenges within some metros, the negative impact of the external socio-political and legislative environment on local government's capacity, and the need for national line departments (e.g. education) to play a more proactive role in spatial transformation initiatives.

Key messages from the discussion

- There is need to define exactly what is good governance and why it is important. This should be not just in the metro sense (because city is much more than a metro) and not limited to leadership but include other stakeholders important for good governance.
- Given that governance relates to the interaction between the state and other stakeholders, the chapter needs to include some mention of investment in local government, in terms of cities' relations with private funders.
- The key restructuring elements of city governance are urban management, local participation and involvement, local government capacity (individual, institutional and environmental), and administrative and financial management.
- How do we strengthen ward committees when their role is just to advise the Ward Councillor?
- Questions of leadership: Are we a developmental state or not? Because developmental states lead rather than follow, and we seem to be following.
- Interdepartmental alignment in local government spatial transformation initiatives is a key challenge.
- The national land and housing legislation needs to be improved so that it is can pro-actively support the local government spatial transformation agenda.
- In Africa – and perhaps everywhere - the perspective of local authorities is contextual. Hence, the priorities of local government need to be considered in different local city contexts.

CHAPTER 6: CITY FINANCING AND INNOVATION – SHARON LEWIS AND CARMEN ABDOLL

(Host: Simphiwe Dzengwa)

> *Without adequate funding and sound financial management practices, the idea of spatial transformation is a pipe-dream. Cities finance model needs to be reviewed to increase own revenue to deliver on city development strategies*

This chapter reflects on the important realities and consequences facing municipalities with respect to finance and financing, and the emerging issues regarding the intergovernmental fiscal framework and local government mandates.

Part A focuses on topics that relate directly to the current state of city finances and key policy debates on the financing of cities. It looks at the growing importance of cities within South Africa and tells the story of the emerging local government fiscal framework (as well

as some of the key issues on the horizon). It also examines the changing state of city finances, given the growth of in-migration over the past 15 years, and starts to build the case for treating cities differently within the local government fiscal framework. An exploration of how the cities are optimising their property rates, one of their largest revenue sources, compares property rates revenue between the cities, city property rates for similar properties and city indigent policies. It also considers the relationship between managing property rates well and a city's ability to borrow.

Part B focuses on topics that relate to the role played by cities in promoting sustainable economic growth. This is examined through:

1 City procurement policies and practices, as procurement needs to be competitive and inclusive in order to support economic growth. A city's procurement policies and practices can promote employment, SMMEs, BBBEE, gender equality and youth development.
2 Doing business in cities: how cities promote themselves as places to invest and work; the comparative cost of doing business in the different cities; whether cities have been innovative in promoting investment and doing business.
3 Cities' use of tariffs to promote the green economy, in particular whether there are innovative ways in which cities can use tariffs and rebates to promote the more efficient use of electricity, water, waste management services and other environmental resources.

This part also looks specifically at the assignment of the transport function and the human settlements mandate. It looks at the likely financial implications of cities taking responsibility for these functions and at innovative ways that will enable cities to deliver these functions more effectively.

Key messages from the discussion

- Without adequate funding and sound financial practices, the idea of spatial transformation is a pipe dream.
- Cities finance model needs to be reformed to increase own revenue to deliver on city development strategies. Local government currently gets only 10% of the national budget.
- City revenues: (i) over-reliance on revenue from the sale of scarce resources (electricity); (ii) development charges not a priority (financing gap); (iii) the use of municipal assets to generate revenue represents a big opportunity.
- Maintenance backlogs are a reality, and cities will have to prioritise carefully when making spending decisions. In the long run, cities may be required to spend more on infrastructure, if they don't maintain existing assets. The expansion of human settlements means higher demand for infrastructure (water, electricity, sanitation and roads etc.). Municipalities may need to change their approach to human settlements and build compact cities in order to minimise the cost of infrastructure.
- Land tenure issues around traditional land, which is not rateable and doesn't contribute to city finance, need to be addressed.
- In addition to updating the indicator set, there is a need to think carefully about benchmarking finance performance with other standards and performance areas, especially efficiency standards

CHAPTER 7: ENABLING CITIES: POLICIES, STRATEGIES, ACTORS, INSTITUTIONS – WENDY OVENS

(Host: Modjadji Malahlela)

> *Cities are spaces of innovation. There are four sets of role-players that collaborate to make economic growth happen: government, civil society, academia, private sector. Cities provide the concentration of talented and productive people to achieve this. How do we create an inviting environment, unlock and support innovation?*

An enabling environment may be considered as the interrelated conditions, which would include the *policy and legal, financial, organisational, knowledge, political and cultural dynamics* that would allow an organisation to *facilitate growth and development* in an e*ffective, efficient, accountable and sustainable manner.* This chapter is based on the Quadruple Helix Innovation Theory, which states that a country's economic structure rests on four pillars (or helices): academia, firms (private sector), government and civil society. As economic growth is generated by the clustering and concentration of talented and productive people, creative cities and knowledge regions are considered to be the true engines of economic growth.

The chapter uses case studies to examine how the different stakeholders – state-owned enterprises (SOEs), government, private sector, academia and civil society – can work together to support and promote productive, sustainable and inclusive cities. It looks at what is working and what is not working, whether opportunities within cities are being optimised, and what innovation is happening (and where).

An enabling environment approach allows one to think about cities in a different way and to be innovative, building on what information and studies already exist.

Key messages from the discussion

- Define an enabling environment for what purpose and for whom. Is it for economic growth, for citizens, for the city or for something else?
- Define players' roles in creating an enabling environment, which is a highly political issue, as visions, mandates and interests are different. Does the city allow role-players to interact? What impact do the role-players/sectors have on the city?
- Shift the paradigm, to unlock the innovation for social and economic growth – a new way of thinking and taking responsibility for change and looking at the big picture. Local government has the potential to be innovative but is stifled by over-regulation, duplication of reporting functions and lack of coordination between sectors.
- Create an enabling environment that supports dynamic and interactive collaboration. Greater impact can be achieved through partnerships and cooperation.
- Use case studies to share good practices and lessons across a range of stakeholders
- Three areas of looking at the enabling environment for transformation: internal environment (how the city enables or not innovation); inviting environment (does the city allow innovation) and external environment (how the external environment enables innovation). Case studies should speak to these different environments
- A level of formality is needed to ensure co-production, for which trust building is very important. This should be government's role (e.g. the Round Table concept used in Latin America).
- What about secondary cities and upcoming cities and dynamic changes occurring within these spaces?
- This chapter should be the synthesising chapter of SOCR IV, bringing together the other chapters and answering the question 'enabling environment to what end?'

World Café Conversations

These 'café' style conversation sessions enabled participants to engage with a range of invited guests ('hosts') who presented on a range of themes. Participants had the possibility of attending three 30-minute sessions. The key issues discussed during the three sessions are shared below.

SACN and SALGA's collaboration on the image of local government

Host: Sithole Mbanga (South African Cities Network)

The SACN/SALGA collaboration enables city leaders to competently champion and communicate city knowledge; to be advised by leading experts and authorities on urban development; and to showcase the good work being done by municipalities. Some municipalities have made significant progress in delivering services to their communities, but these efforts are not recognised, and so the negative perception of local government is continuing. According to the 2011 South African Reconciliation Barometer, only 43% of South Africans had confidence in local government. The increase in service delivery protests is not helping to build a positive sentiment about local government.

Confusion about roles: Citizens are confused about the roles of the different spheres of government. They assume that local government is responsible for delivering all services including health and education – and so blame local government for failures of other spheres of government. Therefore intergovernmental collaboration/alignment is a solution to improving the image of local government.

Communication by local government: Local government does not communicate in a way that makes it easy for the community to listen and engage with municipalities. Some citizens do not even know their leadership (mayors and city managers). At the moment local government is not listening to what people are saying and does not have effective ways to capture citizen needs. Municipalities must take advantage of social networks and engage through more platforms, and communicate their failures and challenges to the communities. Municipalities should communicate using a language that ordinary citizens can understand.

Improving the image of local government: SALGA and SACN should collaborate in putting together programmes to manage and improve the image of local government (e.g. profile municipalities) and avoid duplicating research areas. Local government should be seen as a sphere of government that brings democracy closer to the people and promotes public participation, which should not be a tick box especially during IDP consultations. This project may not be effective, as SALGA is part of local government, and so the report will come across as local government reviewing itself (15 years of LG will be launched at the National Members Assembly).

Work ethic: Municipal officers do not have a good work ethic, which can be improved through performance management by senior officials (who should oversee how all the staff in the municipality is behaving). Municipalities should communicate with communities on the penalties/disciplinary actions that are taken when officials and municipalities misbehave. For example, what happens when a municipality gets a qualified audit or when the Public Protector finds officials misbehaving. The negative image also results from corruption and poor-quality services. Municipalities should find better ways to collect revenue from rates and taxes so that they can improve service delivery.

Catalysing township development through spatial planning and public investment

Host: Douglas Cohen (National Treasury: Neighbourhood Development Programme)

Terminology (townships/suburbs): The terminology needs to change, as the 'township' concept is outdated (apartheid name) and is applied to a multitude of urban spaces, when some 'townships' (e.g. Soweto) are cities. Rather use urban/suburban, places, neighbourhoods, homes.

Township development: Do we take development to the townships or develop within the townships – is it about creating corridors to link to economic opportunities or providing for community needs (e.g. schools)? Sound spatial strategy needs to guide the approach to development, with spatial assessments done with people who live in the area. Communities should participate in drawing up the plan for developing their informal settlement (e.g. Buffalo City case study) – bottom up approach. Departure point must be a people-oriented approach. The continued growth of informal settlements is linked to issue of land: why do people choose to build in certain areas (e.g. near Lanseria) – is it to be near jobs or because it is where land is available?

Township development grants: Gauteng's approach to township development vs. neighbourhood grant approach (precinct). What is the difference between first and second economy approach that we had before? Neighbourhood grant is a spatial development grant. Grant influences development into specific areas. Incentives (instruments) are used to enable access to opportunities (e.g. land) by townships. Standards for development are a challenge, and resources need to be prioritised to attain certain outcomes.

Investment/capital in townships: How do we open up the townships for development and access? There is a need to connect townships to mainstream economy. Capital must be directed to townships, through partnership and local economic development. There is a need to look at how to attract investments into townships and how to make the cost of doing business lower. Retail seems to be the only investment in townships, but what value do malls bring into townships? Why are other sectors not investing? Is there a way to crowd in suppliers to townships (e.g. health, education, services) before inviting the private sector? Comparative advantage of an area should inspire the types of sectors targeted. Businesses choose certain locations, e.g. access to skills, connectivity and mobility. Residential property market in townships faces issues of ownership rights and equity, and given the history of townships (dormitory cities), capacity must be built first.

Case-based findings about spatial change and continuity in parts of our city

Host: Prof. Phillip Harrison (South African Research Chair in Spatial Analysis and City Planning)

Achievements (or not) over the past 20 years: Integration has been on the agenda for decades – the 1996 Urban Development Framework raised very similar issues to the IUDF. However, the historical backlogs required numbers to be delivered, which led to negative effects of RDP housing programme. The RDP locations work against spatial transformation (new ghettos) and deracialisation, and bulk infrastructure in townships was neglected. Have we measured/understood the unintended consequences of the RDP housing programmes: location and quality of settlements, social cohesion, deracialisation. How do we change RDP housing allocation. What about brownfields developments? What about urban renewal as an aim for housing and other investments. Intentions ≠ outcomes.

Spatial transformation: How do we measure transformation, and to what extent has transformation occurred? Are we chasing a pipe dream? South Africa is not unique – city regions in other parts of the world (e.g. India) are grappling with class issues. Presence of foreign nationals also influence transformation. We need to move from ideology/strategy/policy to implementation. Are 'new cities' such as Steyn City positive or negative?

Changing realities: How we respond to differentiation and changing realities. Growth in property values: R300-billion (1994) to R4-trillion, or 1400%. Who has access to that wealth? What is the state's role? In Germiston urbanisation is happening but alongside dilapidation and lack of service maintenance. Our society is more cosmopolitan – we have to understand transformation in a different way.

Local government: What is the national agreement on integration and planning for integration? Macro and local levels needed. 'Ready to govern' focused on national government, and local government has been seen as secondary. Also seen in deployment/lenders. State sees housing as a social good but handles it as a private good.

Private sector: State investment much smaller. Where has capital parked its money? = industrial. Urban investment thrives on private consumption, e.g. large shopping malls. These drivers affect densification. Movement of capital into real estate. Policy intent is one angle. We have missed private sector role in shaping cities. It is not just about policy outcomes.

The role of intermediate / secondary cities

Host: Prof. Lochner Marais (University of the Free State / Centre for Development Studies)

Metropolising of secondary cities: Are citizens or politicians behind/pushing for metropolising? The financial element is the reason for cities wanting to be metros. The current financial model in these cities has to be rethought. Perhaps look at introducing the same funding model for both metros and secondary cities. Funding should be tied to the functional role of these cities, not categories. (The original intention was to have municipalities.) The functional role of these cities in urbanisation should not be underestimated.

Challenges for secondary cities: Diversification of economies; capacity issues: dysfunctionality of these cities has resulted in privatisation, with implications for households and decentralisation; climate vulnerability of secondary cities (has anyone looked at this?).

Other issues for secondary cities: How is demarcation in some of these cities being handled; relationships between secondary cities and district municipalities; urban development plan/ framework being adapted in South Africa; multiple indicators – population numbers plus others such as economic role; and should the approach taken be bottom-up or top-down.

Why is rural prosperity tied to urban success?

Host: Prof. Lindile Ndabeni (Tshwane University of Technology/Institute for Economic Research on Innovation)

Urban and rural areas are interlinked: There is a need to maintain a balance between rural and urban policies. Linkages to promote development creates choices and therefore balance. The development agenda should include the two spaces, as urban areas cannot be defined outside rural areas. Public policy should articulate and acknowledge the inter-dependence. Rural and urban council policies need to be mutually inclusive. Political vision must promote diverse economies in space, and platforms should be available where opinions can be voiced freely.

Rural economies: There is no incentive for people to stay in rural areas, hence the influx to urban areas. Rural areas must be developed to provide options to citizens in terms of staying or going to cities/urban areas, e.g. decentralise commerce/industry, invest in transport infrastructural investment (push/pull factors). Resource dependence determines where you end up (not necessarily where you are from). To attract people back, it is necessary to build local economies (beyond agriculture) and to consider relevant types of economies in each case – acknowledge local innovation. Cooperatives show purpose and, build ownership.

## Local government reforms in differentiated support of cities

Host: Samantha Naidu (National Treasury: City Support Programme)

Funding/grants: Cities are dependent on grant funding and assume that national and provinces will provide support. Grants need to be rationalised, and the allocation for cities need to be revised, so that the grant system responds to the difference in revenue bases across metros. A spatial planning grant is needed.

Differentiation of cities: Secondary cities need further reforms to address their problems. CoGTA should work on rationalising non-viable municipalities. Metros need to be differentiated, as some have low growth, which makes targeted spatial transformation difficult. Ways must be found to bring in the private sector as part of differentiated support. Cities should be given more powers. The problem is not always policy but can also be a lack of capacity.

IGR and definition of roles/powers: The role of provinces is very important and needs to be defined. Assumptions are made about programmes within the cities (a top-down not bottom-up approach). The IGR discussion must take place within the context of cities' role and economic growth. What is Treasury's role with regard to housing devolution?

Measurement/indicators: Cities are failing to measure output. Indicators of successful programmes need to be more robust. Theory versus practice (praxis). Indicators need to be aligned across government, so that there is proper measurements for success/delivery.
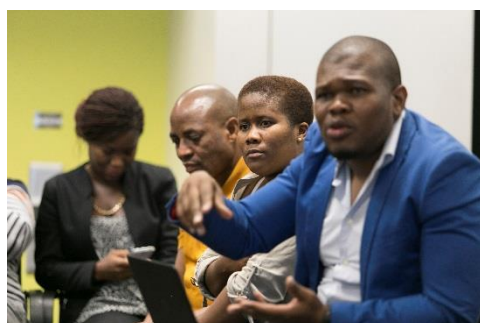
Urban Futures: demographic change and resource capacity

Host: Louise Scholtz (World Wildlife Fund, WWF)

Resources: These are not just natural resources but also refer to infrastructure, people, accessibility, money, skills etc. The issues of land (political) and land value (for who?), SOE/public/private owned land, and informal settlements on well-located land.

Housing needs: A change in mind-set is required with regards to renting (ownership is not the be all and end all anymore) and to transforming inner city buildings. Challenges include more than one family member on the waiting list; declining population but increasing housing demands (e.g. NMBMM), and problems with ownership and duties. Look at the possibility of mixed-housing development and national legislation in support of social housing (legal framework to support owners and renters).

Demographic dividend: Young people are not getting into economy and so not into housing. Youth unemployment adds to the complexity of entry-level housing. The Eastern Cape has a brain drain, with out-migration of skills and in-migration from surrounding rural areas.

Urban safety as a priority issue in achieving the potential of cities

Host: Philipp Kuehl and Terrence Smith (GIZ Violence and Crime Prevention Programme/SA Urban Safety Reference Group)

Safety must be made a priority: Safety needs to be considered as a key issue, not just an after-thought! Safety is a larger concept that includes other aspects such as 'job safety', road safety (e.g. the book 'Arrival City'). We are building cities for PEOPLE, so safety is a fundamental objective and should be a required aspect (legislatively) in planning processes. Planning and design (and ongoing maintenance) of public spaces/human settlements/cities must include criminal prevention through environmental design (i.e. impact on safety). How do we incentivise politicians to make safety a priority? Violence prevention is a long-term process, but there can be short-term interventions.

Social dimension: There is a relationship between structural violence and inter-personal violence. Violence is more than physical violence and may be 'invisible', e.g. emotional, which contributes to more visible forms of violence. Values are important because they guide social interaction. Social risk factors, such as unemployment, drugs abuse, domestic violence, contribute to insecurity. Look at creative, innovative approaches that promote positive values and consider cultural norms. Good examples in Colombia, e.g. Bogota, Medellin, but it requires a paradigm shift; 'I care' – social intervention within communities

Effect of urbanisation: What impact does the influx of people into cities have on the psyche of people? Urban aspiration mitigating against safer and inclusive cities, e.g. gated communities. Well-governed cities are the basis for safety. Traditional leadership should be engaged in educating young people, support them when transitioning from rural to urban

Criminal justice system: While prevention is important, the criminal justice system needs to be strengthened. How do we deal with repeat offenders? Diversion?

Policies and bylaws: There is a misalignment of the different (safety) policies. How can they be brought together and whose responsibility is it to ensure safety polices are integrated/aligned? Municipal bylaws need to be reviewed in terms of how they contribute to (or negatively affect) safety. The capacity for enforcement is important, but there is a lack of trust in law enforcement institutions.

Cities and social cohesion – international lessons

Host: Julia Middleton (Common Purpose Charitable Trust)

Social cohesion: Not enough attention is being paid to social cohesion ('we will get to it when we can), perhaps because there is a fear – better to stay with people you know. As a result, we are not free. Schools and universities are important, as social cohesion is built through doing things together. We should celebrate urbanisation, put people first and make people economically active.

It starts with me: We can't do social cohesion until we get better at it ourselves. It's not enough to rely on the Constitution/politicians. We need to have authentic conversations – not just say what's good – and get over the fear of discourse (and the preference to stay with people we know). It's about knowledge versus judgement and learning how to open the debate.

South Africa can lead the debate: Our history ('apartheid denied me a neighbour like you for years') can help us be at the forefront. Apartheid-style cities are a problem all over the world, as is xenophobia.

Youth development in South Africa – challenges and opportunities

Host: Baba Buntu (Ebukhosini Solutions)

Mentorship: We need to expand possibilities of mentorship, transfer thinking (e.g. Awethu project) and knowledge within the community. Youth services must be depoliticised and be accessible and user friendly.

Enterprise development: The youth must lead enterprise development, and youth companies must be part of the mainstream economy. Youth need to learn production and entrepreneurial skills at an early age. Collaboration should be encouraged between different regions and youth.

Education: There needs to be a balance between township schools and urban schools, and a bridging of the information gap among youth (e.g. urban youth vs. township youth). Education facilities must be upgraded and expanded, while economic incentives (rather than levelling of salaries) must be offered in the interest of education.

Municipal green transport

Host: Mr Carel Snyman and Dr Crispian Olver (SANEDI: Energy and Mobility and LInkd Environmental Services)

Hybrids or full electric buses: Hybrids offer short to medium term benefits but full electric buses offer more value in the long term. Need to explore how to manage battery replacement for electric vehicles.

Gas bus companies: Cost of conversion will come down with economies of scale and industry participation. Gas bus companies willing to set up refuelling plants in SA but there is a business opportunities in terms of independent gas supply.

Municipalities: Aggregated purchase of fuel and mode of propulsion will allow municipalities to wean themselves off the current diesel economy, and centralised procurement for municipalities must be prioritised. Specific projects must fit into national DoT master plans.

The role of cities in relation to regional economies

Host: Kirsten Pearson (National Treasury: Economies of Regions Learning Network, ERLN)

Functional regions: Should they be institutional/administrative or functionally grouped. They are sometimes defined as provinces or district municipalities (e.g. Amatole, Overberg, Eden, West Rand) but are also municipalities that collaborate without being institutionally linked (e.g. Tshwane and Madibeng). In some provinces, the city is the region. West Rand defines itself through common economic drivers and shared challenges. Better to be grouped functionally rather than institutionally because the economy is more fluid than administrations (city and political boundaries, e.g. Tshwane and City of Joburg). In Gauteng, the Gauteng City Region (comprising three administrative metros) has benefitted the area.

Maximising the strengths of functional regions: This can be done through regional price differentiation (e.g. flexible labour prices). The role of transport in regional set up needs to be examined. It is very metro-focused but also needs to consider transport between towns. Transport needs to be clearly defined, e.g. trucks vs. trains, ports and harbours (Richards Bay and Durban). Rail can be innovative and a leader. The public purse makes Pretoria almost recession proof, while in the Eastern Cape there is a need to get the basics right. This is an opportunity for government to stimulate nodes of economic activity (municipalities can facilitate an enabling environment). Economic development should not displace existing local economy from one place to another.

Business perspective on regional economic development: What are the incentives for business and/or enabling environment for economic development (effect of labour bill, expropriation). Businesses are looking to invest and for lower taxation (refer the study in US about rebates on property tax). ICT transition is going to happen regardless, and so digital marginalisation will increase unless the government intervenes.

Role of public entities and Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs): State-owned enterprises (SOEs) appear to be on their own paths and yet are working in regions and have regional perspectives. Cities and provinces need to engage with SOEs. The SIPs are not tied back into industrial policy, municipal IDPs and provincial plans. Yet they are putting economic infrastructure in place, e.g. SIP4 (SANRAL) is unlocking North West economy. What are the PICC and DBSA doing? Why are private firms not being factored into SIPs.

Demarcation: What is meant by the viability of a space? The 1996 reduction resulted in 278 municipalities, but is this sustainable/viable? Is it bad to allow a city to die? (E.g. Barberton is a mining town – and when the economy dies, the town dies.) Should demarcation be revisited? There could be 10 regions based on competitive areas, but certain people will still be outside (e.g. Eastern Cape agriculture/education). If cities were demarcated, they would have to do the coordinated planning.

Role of cities: How will the drive to create lone-standing urban areas affect the interlinked economy and not create silos? What is local government's economic development role? If local government is defined as where service delivery takes place, what sort of leadership is needed? For example, can the mayor negotiate bonds? The role of cities and developing linkages with township economies are key, as is the issue of sustainability – strong connections between cities and rural areas add to the benefit of looking regionally.

Intergovernmental support: Coordination is key but difficult to realise, to enable the alignment of provincial and local plans. There is no incentive to help other departments – the lead department gets credit for performing, not for helping another department to achieve their KPIs. Municipalities are in a bind, as they are expected to do things to support the region, despite not being budgeted for, while the tendency at national level is to think 'wonderful country; municipalities are going to do it'. Secondary cities are deeply stressed and struggling with economic differentiation (they often have only one source of economic development). Different ways of funding are needed. The national fiscus get equitable share, but zero for economic development.

Smart cities for South Africa

Host: Ms Nontokozo Hadebe (City of Johannesburg)

Definition of Smart City: A Smart City can improve the quality of life and is about future sustainability, not a short-term view. Each city is unique. Assets and how they are leveraged makes a smart city – e.g. techno smart is fine if it enhances efficiency/improves service delivery; cities need to identify a niche in which to excel. Smart City concept also touches diverse communities (integration). Smart City does not necessary mean more investment as it is more about efficiency and integration – efficiency is core to how we build cities (data management is key). A Smart City is a flexible, sustainable city that adapts to city challenges.

City of Joburg Smart City approach: Setting standard for other cities to learn from, especially service delivery and efficiency. Green City – smart grid, smart meters, solar-powered robots. During the planning phase, the CoJ's initial open call was very specific about the service provider that the city wished to appoint. The initial study shows that Smart City had a positive impact on employment, through moving from manual to automated (smart) systems. The CoJ is still working on an economic study related to mine dumps. The city is continuously engaging with the community regarding the Corridors of Freedom (incentivise property developers). The Corridors will address densification (development brownfield vs. greenfields).

Success factors: Engagement with various stakeholders is critical for successful implementation of Smart City (e.g. CoJ's extensive community engagement). Infrastructure maintenance is also important, and so is getting the basics right before looking at being techno savvy and other cities' Smart City approaches. It is difficult to run Smart City (integrate traffic/mobility) without the control centre. Getting the basics right needs to be balanced with being innovative, and looking at what services we excel in /deploy to improve quality of life. Smart people and smart leadership are key. The reputation/image of local government (which depends on trust between citizens and government) can affect smart citizens and smart institutions, and communication can help address the city's image/reputation.

Talking Heads Exhibition

This exhibition presented various perspectives (and ways of perceiving) the City in an informative and stimulating manner. Presenters were on hand to speak about their project, its commentary on 'the state of South African cities' and to share their messages about the future of urban management and governance in South Africa.

Architects Collective

http://architects.org.za/

Contact Lone Poulsen (Chairperson)

Co-producing the city: lessons from the informal cities and SA city futures projects

Cityscapes

http://www.cityscapesdigital.net/
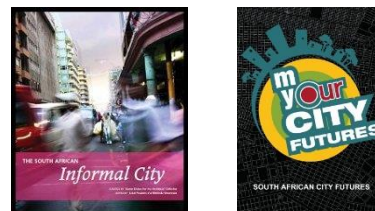
Contact: Tau Tavengwa (Editor)

Popular and critical perspectives on the city

GGLN and Isandla Institute

http://ggln.org.za/ http://isandla.org.za/

Contact: Adoné Kitching (Urban Land Policy Researcher)

State of local governance research project

Infrastructure Dialogues

http://www.infrastructuredialogue.co.za

Richard Goode (Lead Sector Strategy Specialist: Infrastructure Planning, Development Planning Division of the Development Bank of Southern Africa)

Topics from Infrastructure Dialogues over past three years

Kanya-AICDD (African Institute for Community-Driven Development)

http://www.khanya.org/

Peter Ochola (Director – Programmes)

Community-based planning and enabling an active citizenry

Mobile Media Mob

http://mobilemediamob.com/

Contact: Thoban Jappie (Creative Director)

New media and crowd sourcing

Wake Up, this is Joburg!

http://www.tanyazack.com/

Contact: Tanya Zack (Author)

Wake up, this is (your city!)

Capital Collective

http://www.capitalcollective.co.za/

Contact: Mareli Wassenaar (Programme Director)

50 ideas for the City

The South African Council for Planners

http://www.sacplan.org.za/

Contact: Martin Lewis (CEO)

Planning profession perspective

Play Africa

http://playafrica.org.za/

Contact: Gretchen Wilson Prangley (CEO)

Safe and inclusive public spaces

Instagram Competition

A ground-breaking use of this popular social media platform, the Instagram competition encouraged conversation around key urban issues and engaged with South Africans in the ever-growing digital landscape.

The overall response to this innovative and exciting way to interact with citizens (particularly the urban youth) was enthusiastic and positive. Entries came from all sectors of the South African Instagram community, from 'newbies/hobbyists' to 'ardent/pro' Instagrammers.

Ran as a nationwide initiative, the Instagram competition encouraged Instagrammers in each participating municipality to submit images related to the overarching theme, which was

My city, through my lens! I have a vision for this city… For my urban life and lifestyle. I want to be able to live, work and play as part of a wider community who can all do the same. How does... or could... my city provide the access, mobility, inspiration for us to have a fulfilling urban life?

In addition, a specific theme was allocated to each participating municipality:

- Buffalo City Municipality: Revitalising the city through reconfigured space and mobility (58 entries)
- Cape Town: How the World Design Capital works for all its citizens (330 entries)
- Ekurhuleni: *Aerotropolis* (43 entries)
- eThekwini: *GO Durban!* (113 entries)
- Johannesburg: *Corridors of Freedom* (457 entries)
- Mangaung: Revitalising the city through reconfigured space and mobility (44 entries)
- Msunduzi: Revitalising the city through reconfigured space and mobility (74 entries)
- Nelson Mandela Bay: *Urban Regeneration Programmes* (127 entries)
- Tshwane: *WiFi Project* (260 entries)

What the entrants said …

Thank you for the opportunity to explore and showcase my sleepy hometown :) - @embellashment

It's been a lot of fun participating. - @crawler21

Thank you for this great opportunity for us to share images!! Sharing images doubles the fun of taking them! - @michahannemann

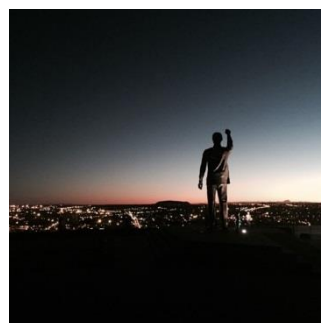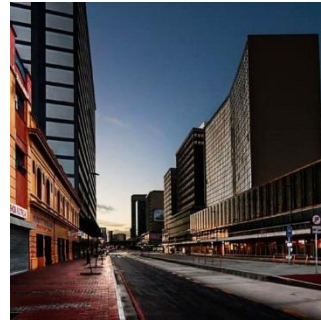You guys have brought so much SA pride to us! Thank you! - @amzbooysen

Thank you for hosting this wonderful competition. It has inspired some really impressive photos! - @tomvidal

This was such a rad initiative, well done!! Looking forward to more like these in the future:) - @danielrademeyer

The winner in each municipality received R5000 and the runner up R2500.

The competition generated 'real life' visual content, often accompanied by insightful captions and tapping into real issues that affect citizens in their daily lives. The photographs submitted were of a consistent, high quality and will be used in future SACN work. SACN plans to repeat (and improve) this type of initiative.

Closing Plenary

Sithole Mbanga welcomed delegates to the final session of the 4trh South African Urban Conference. He presented apologies from Deputy-Minister Nel. The chapter hosts and/or SACN project managers presented a summary of the chapter conversations held on Day 2.

There followed a presentation by KPMG on the SACN Urban Indicators Project. **ANDILE SKOSANA (ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR KPMG CITIES CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE)** explained the scope of their engagement, to assist with data collection and collation of 103 urban indicators for four pilot cities, to conduct a qualitative cost benefit analysis and to develop a new city data system concept paper.

JEAN-PIERRE ELONG-MBASSI (SECRETARY GENERAL OF UCLG) thanked the organisers for inviting him and praised the level and frankness of the discussion, as well as the conference format, especially the World Café Conversations. He highlighted the uniqueness of the SA Cities Network, which needs to spread out across the continent and to convince the leadership of the need to focus on urbanisation. No meeting of the African Union head of states has ever addressed the issue of urbanisation, and yet within the next 20 years 80% of Africa's people will be living in urban areas. The inclusion of researchers from universities in this type of work also needs to be encouraged in other African countries. He also called on the SACN not to limit this conversation to the level of ministries and local authorities but to take it to the people, who can tell decision makers that the future is local. He then officially invited everyone to Africities, which will take place in Johannesburg from 29 November to 1 December 2015.

The motto of Africities is 'building Africa from the grassroots'. The first Africities summit was in 1998, followed by summits in 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2012. The theme for the 2015 Africities is 'shaping the future of Africa with the people'. It is a milestone and will enable African local authorities to contribute to the 2063 agenda of the Africa Union. The two main objectives are to define appropriate shared strategies in order to improve the day-to-day living conditions of the people at the local level, and to promote a local government and territorial perspective.

CLLR RAMOKGOPA thanked everyone for being part of the conference for the past two days, in particular representatives from SALGA. He emphasised the need for conversations about the SOCR to take place in an appropriate language and to speak to people's lived experience. Civic education is an important aspect that will enable people to understand the issues that affect the future prosperity of cities.

SITHOLE MBANGA thanked all the dignitaries and the delegates who had participated so enthusiastically during the conference. He explained the way forward: a report will be produced based on the chapter summaries. In April a workshop is planned for the chapter writers, after which the first drafts for review are expected by June. The first draft of the final report is expected to be ready by end December 2015, when it will be tabled at the SACN Board meeting. The final report is planned for publication in March/April 2016, before the municipal elections.