Report on Pre-World Urban Forum Event on Safer Cities at WUF III Vancouver, Canada

Title of Event: Pre-World Urban Forum Event on Safer Cities

Name of Organisation: UN-HABITAT

Date and time of the session: Sunday 18 June 2006, 1400-1730h

Key Highlights

1. No of participants: 40 (See Annex)

- 2. Stakeholder group representation at the event:
 - National Government
 - Provincial Government
 - Local Authorities/Local Authority Bodies
 - Mayors
 - Urban Safety Experts
 - Research/Academic Institutions
 - International Urban Safety Organisations

3. What were the expected objectives:

- Presentation of the urban safety agenda, safety and security dialogue, networking, and special events, at WUF III;
- Provision of feedback from the Africa-Canada study visit by local and provincial government representatives from both regions, proposing and responding to identified areas of technical co-operation around urban safety;
- Building understanding on urban partnerships, networks, and city to city cooperation (based in part on Africa-Canada study visit) and strengthening of the Safer Cities network of cities, with a focus on Africa;
- Review of progress made at city level since African Forum on Urban Safety meeting in Grand Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire, and determination of way forward towards the Special Session on Safety and Security at Africities Summit in Nairobi (September 2006).

4. What did the networking event achieve:

- Harmonised understanding on 'city to city co-operation' explaining its basic/key principles, components, and challenges;
- Brought together development partners and local authorities, among others, providing an opportunity for potential sources of funding and support to be identified (e.g. EFUS, FCM);
- Areas of technical co-operation between cities presented, and interest/initial commitment of host Canadian municipalities for longer-term engagement articulated;
- Set basis for next steps for thematic focal cities in line with objectives and agenda for Special Session on Safety in Africities Summit in Nairobi (September 2006)

2. What were the core issues identified in your event as they relate to the theme and sub-themes of WUFIII?

Theme: Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action Sub-Theme 2: Partnership and Finance – Urban Safety and Security: Taking Responsibility

- Introducing and articulating the importance of safety/security as a precursor for human and urban (physical, social, economic) development;
- Reinforcement of Safer Cities Networks and building of Partnerships (Africa as Phase 1);
- Accounting and furthering responsibility of lead cities following the African Forum on Urban Safety (Cote d'Ivoire);
- 3. What were the main points raised by panellists and participants in relation to these different issues? What new ideas have been generated as a result of the discussion?
 - 'Selling' the crime prevention agenda/approach has been challenging; crime prevention is the responsibility of all urban stakeholders and needs to be embraced at all levels:
 - There is need to network and develop mechanisms for sharing of city level experiences, taking into consideration concerns e.g. conflicts, small arms proliferation, youth idleness and vulnerability;
 - City to city co-operation is a basis for sustainable development strong city associations/bodies could act as intermediary urban safety partners;
 - Importance of availability, access to, and selection, and use of appropriate urban safety tools;
 - Funding for projects, initiatives, interventions does not need to be large focus should be on strategic apportionment of resources;
 - Legal frameworks need not be prerequisites for public-private partnerships good will and sense of responsibility/ownership could also be basis of stakeholders working together.
- 4. What process steps have been identified in your event that could help turn ideas into operational reality?
 - Exploration of non-legal (non-municipality dependant) frameworks for public-private partnerships;
 - Development of concept papers for each lead/focal city to prepare interventions for Special Safety Session in Africities Summit;
 - Development of a communiqué that links social, economic, and institutional reform to safety in preparation for Africities Summit.

ANNEX 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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