

SUMMARY REPORT

DAY TWO, 18 JUNE 2008

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION AND CITIES SUMMIT
(www.yourcitysummit.co.za)

“Youth and children championing community safety for a better world”

Organised By:

UN-HABITAT

Hosted By

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Held at:

Durban ICC, 17th – 20th June 2008

OPENING SESSION GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

OPENING CEREMONY:

The plenary session kicked off with a vigorous cultural event which combined music and dance in a celebration of youth. This was followed by a flag placement ceremony where the flags of all sovereign nations were carried into the hall and placed alongside the podium.

SETTING THE TONE:

Chairperson: **Dr KB Mbanjwa**
Director-General, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Dr Mbanjwa informed the conference that the overall objective of the summit is to develop an international framework for involving youth, across the world, to become partners in sustainable development.

Statement by **Ms I Klevby**
Assistant Secretary General UN and Deputy Executive Director UN-HABITAT

Ms Klevby stated that the agenda of the summit is driven by two primary considerations:

1. Empowerment of the youth: how to put in place practices which are inclusive of the youth.
2. Development of urban youth.

Furthermore, the summit must be used as a vehicle through which programmes, tied to the forthcoming 2010 World Cup, can be put in place which include the youth and offer employment and development opportunities to them. This conference is in the future and the results and recommendations coming out of it will be carried forward to a 2010 conference due to be held in Brazil and at which the issues of youth, drugs and crime will be focussed upon. There is also an initiative in the pipeline to introduce Youth Crime Prevention Awards which could be awarded on a regional basis to celebrate regional achievements in reducing crime.

“We cannot do this alone. We have to work together.”

Statement by **Mr W Lemke**
Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace
Presentation: Sport for a Safer City

Mr Lemke's presentation focused on the positive aspects of using sport as a tool for the development of youth, particularly in those countries which have been or continue to be wracked by war, natural disasters and displacements of communities.

There are currently an estimated 2,2 billion children in the world and 1,6 billion youth aged 12 to 24. None of these children are born criminals or social deviants so why do so many children turn to crime? The reasons are many, diverse and complex. However, no matter how diverse societies are, nor how poor or complex, children have basic needs which must be fulfilled: nutrition, healthcare and love coupled with social inclusion and equality with their peers.

A child which is unmotivated and uninspired, grappling with issues around low self-esteem and a feeling of worthlessness will feel socially excluded and actively look for a community to which it can belong. Oftentimes that community is found in gangs with the sense of belonging these offer. Such membership of gangs ultimately results in anti-social behaviour fuelled by the drug culture and leading to criminal activity carried out with violence.

The United Nations is actively involved in using sport as an acceptable tool to develop strong social values in children. Sport gives children a sense of belonging, facilitates social integration and provides opportunities for the development of life skills and education. Sport is a mirror of our society and for as long as society does not get rid of violence and cheating, these will be reflected in our sporting endeavours. Sport has a wonderful unifying effect on children as it cuts across racial, gender and religious barriers. It reduces the amount of unstructured time children have and thus promotes safer cities and leads to less delinquency whilst at the same time exposing children to physical exercise, decision-making processes and teamwork opportunities.

Because of the positive values promoted by sport the UN actively uses high-profile athletes and sporting teams as goodwill ambassadors and role models to the youth all over the world. Furthermore, the UN hopes that sport will assist countries, particularly developing countries, to achieve their Millennium Development Goals.

Young people must be supported. They must be proud to be members of their communities. There must co-ordinated attempts made to help the youth of this world. South Africa is due to host the 2010 World Cup and it must seize this upcoming opportunity to involve the youth in employment opportunities, helping with securing communities and actively participating in the huge projects and benefits which will accrue prior to, during and after, the World Cup. Whilst it is accepted that society cannot solve all the problems of the youth, it can at least try and prevent new ones arising.

“Let us mobilize the power of sport for the development of peace around the world.”
(Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General, United Nations)

Statement by **Rt Hon M Mudavadi**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Local Government, Kenya

The Rt Honourable Mudavadi began by outlining the violent events which followed the recent disputed election held in Kenya in which 1 200 people, mainly young people, were killed. He then posed the question: “How can we say we are protecting our youth when we direct them to dangerous activities that could ruin their lives forever?” He challenged the UN to put together an agenda which can be used to address where and how funds can be utilised to implement and facilitate youth programmes more forcefully. If society wants its youth to move away from criminal activities there must be a strategy in place which will motivate and enhance budgetary support for activities aimed specifically at the youth.

“When the firing starts it is the young people who perish. We ignore our youth at our own peril.”

Statement by **Ms S Shabangu**

Deputy Minister for Safety and Security, South Africa

The Hon Bheki Cele read out a statement received from the Deputy Minister as unfortunately she was unable to attend the conference due to bad weather preventing her plane from landing.

Firstly, she thanked the KZN provincial authorities and conferences for organising the event, particularly as such a conference is needed in light of the forthcoming 2010 World Cup.

Deputy Minister Shabangu stated that poverty is a key driving factor behind a vast majority of the crime currently happening in South Africa as poverty forces the youth to indulge in criminal activities if only to ensure their basic survival. Although the Bill of Rights guarantees the safety of all citizens of all civilised nations, the current crime wave being experienced by South Africa is robbing this country of the very citizens the Bill is designed to protect.

Deputy Minister Shabangu concluded her statement by stating that the time has come to move away from talk shops and to engage in critical action.

Opening remarks by **Mr JS Ndebele**

Premier of the Province KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

The Hon Premier began his address by suggesting that the long-discussed portfolio of Minister of Youth Affairs cannot be resisted any more and perhaps the time is now ripe for such a Minister to be appointed.

Crime is often accompanied by brutality, brutality from authorities fighting crime and brutality from the criminals themselves. This gives the criminals the impression that the world is ready to take them on which in turn suggests an “us” and “them” division within communities.

He suggested several measures which could be used to address the causative issues of crime and how these can be addressed:

1. Educate communities against buying stolen goods.
2. Municipalities must partner with private business to upgrade, maintain and ensure safety in public areas.
3. The World Cup is bringing huge investment into the country, resulting in massive building projects. These projects must be used to give employment opportunities to the youth, either on the building sites themselves or in related supply and service industries.
4. Government must put in place strategies which will include the youth in private, public and societal development initiatives.

Recently South Africa has rocked by violent xenophobic clashes within communities living in poor areas. However, these xenophobic attacks were confined only to black South Africans attacking other black Africans. It is notable that no other race groups, also from other countries, were in any way attacked. Perhaps this actually means that the violent attacks are Afro-phobic i.e. African on African, and it is incumbent on all African leaders throughout the continent to ensure that such violence does not happen again. Many of the attacks on foreigners in South Africa were committed by youths who had allowed themselves to be used in the agendas of other parties interested in destabilising communities.

“We will emerge out of this as a stronger African continent.”

PLENARY SESSION 1: YOUR CITY

Poetry by **Mr J Renteria**

(Don Popo), La Familia Ayara Colombia

Mr Renteria gave a resounding and passionate rendition of one of his poems which was well received by all attendees.

Moderator: **Ms Y E Bacus,**

Head of Department of Community Safety and Liaison, KwaZulu-Natal,
South Africa

Co-moderator: **Mr M Kamau**

Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in South Africa

Opening Statement by **Mr M Kamau**

Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in South Africa

Ms G Olofsson

Save the Children, Sweden

Ms Olofsson stated that the impact of violence and crime on children is severe, impacting on choices and desire to picture a future for themselves. Ordinary neighbourhoods, which should be safe and secure areas for children, have become dangerous and empty. Feelings of insecurity are further heightened environmental factors: a lack of street lighting and areas which are overgrown with vegetation harbour criminal elements and cover criminal activities. Schools are also now seen as violent enclaves and school play grounds are increasingly become the turf of criminals.

She made several suggestions as to how some criminal trends can be countered. It is necessary to ensure that:

- Vegetation in built up areas is trimmed so that criminals cannot hide.
- Traffic calming measures are instituted to prevent speeding and ensure safer streets.
- Cities offer a choice of public transport services.
- School management structures are improved so that they have sufficient authority to deal with unruly elements in the school grounds.
- Businesses and local authorities combine their efforts to upgrade and maintain public spaces, making sure that sufficient security is in place to ensure that the public are safe.

Questions, comments and answers:

Question: How effective is education through entertainment?

Answer: It is very effective, has proven its worth and, above all, translates into every language in the world.

Comment: We must include all children into society, including those with HIV AIDS.

Comment: In South Africa nobody can feel safe anywhere, be in urban or rural areas.

Comment: Parents are supposed to be responsible for the education of their children. Furthermore, the media plays a role as it tends to sensationalise and highlight violent incidents without ever reporting on the positive measures being taken to address the socio-economic problems which lie at the root of youth crime. Unfortunately very often children emulate their parents and if parents are irresponsible, then children will be as well.

Comment: Use school projects which facilitate interaction between the policy and the school community, as a vehicle to highlight problems and build up confidence between the community and authority so that a mutual sharing of information can take place.

Fr S Mkhathshwa,

President, United Cities and Local Government Association Africa (UCLGA)

Fr Mkhathshwa spoke primarily on the social causes of youth crime, stating that the root causes of crime are found in the way in which people are brought up, the education they go through, the influence of political systems and the impact of a good or weak justice system. Societies have created environments of poverty where the young do not have jobs and where bad influences flourish, feeding off the disaffected youth. Compounding all of these negative influences is the undue importance given to what people have rather than what they are. We live in a culture of consumerism.

In order for youth crime to be brought under control all members of society have to contribute – from business and commerce to governments, NGOs and private individuals. Ethical and moral values founded upon spiritual belief systems must be re-inculcated into our children, giving them the tools with which to make choices between good and bad and right and wrong. If a strong enough campaign is put in place to instil these ethical values then it is possible to make the doing of crime public enemy number 1.

Mr G Sheppard

Executive Director: Remix Project Toronto

Mr Sheppard stated that we live in an age where two qualities are in high demand. These qualities go hand in hand and they are: courage and humility. We need courage, to stand by our convictions, and humility to recognise that sometimes our ideas are not always the best. We cannot win the war against crime but fighting it but rather by engaging in

dialogue with the youth, the perpetrators of the crime. We must learn to collaborate with the youth, harness their energy and include them in finding solutions to the socio-economic challenges which breeds crime.

Mr S Adams

Director: Baobab Connections, South Africa

“Please do not give up!! Work towards our world. Stand up for young people and implement some of the changes we are talking about here. When we talk about youth and the wonderful data and excellent references made to them, we ask ourselves if we are still young. In defining youth, my dilemma is: should we not define adults? What are we doing as the people who have the power to make decisions? Should we not have an Adults Community Safety Forum? While we are focused on one theme, we must not forget that we all were once young. This world that we are trying to change will not change unless we look at ourselves as people.”

“In action rather than in talk: what are you doing here? What do you want? How can you make change? Is your past or your policies or your ego making those decisions for you?”

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr E Giswaswa

Mayor of Bujumbura, Burundi

His Worship, Cllr Giswaswa, stated that Bujumbura tries to ensure that all resources within the city are integrated with no discriminatory practices allowed at all. However, the socio-economic crisis which has plagued the city since 1993 has not helped what was an already difficult situation. Bujumbura has gangs of street children roaming its streets, often in large gangs which are well organised and no at all averse to using violence when provoked. Faced with this situation the Burundi government decided to collaborate with police and other partners to try and put in place interventionist policies in order to deal with crime. To this end sporting and cultural activities are being used to get children into structured environments and micro finance initiatives can at least alleviate some of the financial concerns communities may have.

DIALOGUE SESSION 1: Local Government and Youth Dialogue

Moderator: **Ms CJ Benjamin**, Lotus Fm, South Africa

Co-moderator: **Mr A Nthiyane**, iGagasi 99.5 Fm, South Africa

Discussants: **His Worship the Mayor Cllr O Mlaba**,

Mayor of Ethekwini Municipality, South Africa

Mr RE Jordan, Homies Unidos, El Salvador / CORDAID (ex-gang member)

Mr E Velasquez, Coordinator: White Paper on Citizenship Security and Coexistence, Bogota, Colombia

Mr MY Rafiq,
Hip Hop artist, Xplastaz, Tanzania

Ms B Holtmann, Manager: Social Crime Prevention, CSIR South Africa

Mr E Velasquez

Coordinator: White Paper on Citizenship Security and Coexistence, Bogota, Colombia

Mr Velasquez stated that Colombia has always been known as place of violence. However, in the last 15 years it country has experienced a turnaround to what would be considered “normal” levels of criminality. This has been achieved by inculcating greater levels of tolerance and solidarity among all the citizens of Colombia. Furthermore, excellent support has been given to local authorities in order to ensure that law enforcement is both consistent and vigorous.

Every city needs to develop in its own way. There is not “one size fits all” solution to crime and therefore every city needs to evolve its own method of combating crime. Any input into crime fighting strategies must come from all sectors of society and although there will be disagreements, the most important issue is that all parties are listened to.

Mr M Y Rafiq

Hip Hop Artist

Mr Rafiq informed all attendees that young people must be encouraged to come together and share ideas through a variety of media: song, dance and art as creativity and culture prevent crime and give the youth more positive activities to focus on

DIALOGUE SESSION 2: Police and Youth Dialogue

Moderator: **Ms CJ Benjamin**, Lotus Fm, South Africa

Co-moderator: **Mr J Renteria**, La Familia Ayara, Colombia

Co-moderator: **Ms L. Kasumba**, YFM Radio, South Africa

Discussants: **Mr H Gurdián**, Comisionado Mayor de la Policia Nacional de Nicaragua, retired

Ms M Johansson-Meinke, Superintendent specialized in children and youth, Swedish National Police Board, Sweden

Ms G Xochipo Cano, Mexico

Ms A Santos – Judge for juvenile justice, San Salvador, El S Salvador

Ms HY Buayne, Judge for juvenile justice, Netherlands

Ms AC Ferreira Rodrigues da Silva, Youth. Violence and the Police Project, Center for Studies on Public Security and Citizenship, University Candido Mendes, Brazil

Mr C Ouongo, Chief of Municipal Police, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Ms Aida Santos

Judge for Juvenile Police and Youth Dialogue

Ms Santos reiterated the common thread which ran through many of the presentations given by the speakers: most criminals grow up in an environment of violence and neglect, and children, unfortunately, become what they are taught, where might is right, kill or be killed. It is this underlying sense of defeat and worthlessness which must be addressed in order to even begin addressing the high levels of violent crime.

Ms Hannah Buyne

Judge for Juvenile justice, Netherlands

Ms Buyne urged all delegates to rid of the idea that jails exist to punish criminals. They don't, because prison systems themselves do not work. Children must be proactively educated from a very age that crime is a dead-end street and if they are sufficiently educated, they won't get to enter the dead-end street.

It takes village to raise a child. Perhaps the modern day village should comprise government, churches and civil society, giving children a broader representation of their aspirations in decision-making processes.

Ms Susan Pienaar

Ms Pienaar stated that a balanced approach is needed with dealing with youth crime, linking communities, government and the police force. Community policing is one of the tools that can be used to ensure closer collaboration between communities and police. It is hoped that the role of community policing forums could be expanded to include sector policing forums where all the stakeholders within a sector can contribute to the forum.

Ms M Johansson-Meinke,

Superintendent specialized in children and youth, Swedish National Police Board, Sweden

Regardless of where one lives in the world, the problems of youth crime as are all the same. In Sweden local crime prevention boards have been established, not all of which are supported by the police. However, in order to make any inroads into youth crime there must be, within society, a basic trust in the police force as well as the prevailing justice system. In Sweden Youth Boards have been established to offer advice to

communities and to assist in fighting crime. It is imperative that, in order to establish crime prevention tools, the youth themselves are consulted on their experiences.

Ex-Gangster Representative – **Andrea Louige** (Soldier Never Again)

Mr Louige shared his experiences with the delegates and praised the organisation Soldier Never Again stating that the projects it has put in place have given many youngsters new opportunities to draw them away from crime.

VIEWS FROM THE FLOOR

- Self help group within communities are pivotal. Youth must know that there is hope in changing
- This summit must come up with recommendations that seek to unite all youth formations in crime prevention.
- Ensure that the recommendations are implemented across the world.
- Families provide a foundation for what a person is to become. Broken families do not help the situation. Government, churches etc must work together in ensuring concrete, complete and safe families.
- Street patrol groups – community patrols.
- Youth should be involved in the training of the Police.
- Corruption within the Police- what can be done to foster trust. Its difficult to seen police as friends as they are very much involved in the repression of the youth. Its easy to train the youth, it is also important to train the police to play drums with the youth
- The intensity of the punishment might make things worse.
- Where we are going, will be informed by the decisions we take today. This is not the first conference on this issue, what happened to the Vancouver resolutions? Have a structured approach – young people need a platform to unleash their potential.
- Rural areas are neglected when it comes to youth development programmes. Create Organisation that will focus on youth development in schools .
- Community policing forums mobilize communities to work with police.

CONCLUSIONS FROM DISCUSSANTS:

- An ocean is made up of a lot of drops of water.
- Do not decentralize at once – municipal bodies may not be able to face all these responsibilities at once.

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S DIALOGUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- We will focus more on strategies for youth involvement. Need more organization and commitment around this.
- Structures tat will assist justice and law enforcement to stimulate cooperation.

- Institutionalisation of youth participation (link to other similar recommendations)
- Youth in conflict with the law must be included in the programmes, and the programmes must be both preventative and rehabilitative.
- Train and capacitate youth structures working with the police
- Central to supporting families, having the support of extended families and larger communities
- Corruption in police does affect building of trust,
- Shift from retributive justice to rehabilitative justice
- Opportunities for youth dev beyond crime prevention should be looked at