SUMMARY REPORT

DAY THREE 19 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

PLENARY SESSION ON REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON YOUTH AND VIOLENCE

Recap of previous day's deliberations

Mr. J Assiago,
Urban Safety & Youth Expert, Safer Cities Programme, UNHABITAT & South African Representative

Mr Assiago gave a brief recap on discussions of the previous day. He highlighted the following points:

Origins and factors which breed youth crime:

1. No child is ever born a criminal as most criminals are raised in an environment of violence and neglect
2. Children are encouraged, by political agendas and the self interest of particular groups, to enter in criminal activities (drug running) or violent conflict (internecine war)
3. Schools are increasingly becoming the turf of criminals: fortresses of fear, not citadels of learning

Measures that can be used to prevent youth crime:

1. Include the youth in private, public and societal issues.
2. Use the World Cup 2010 as a vehicle to promote employment/business opportunities among the youth.
3. Engage in dialogue with the youth and collaborate with them in their environment to find solutions which will assist them to cope
4. Sport, art, music and cultural activities are all being used successfully in conflict zones as tools to give the youth structured opportunities to interact and socialise across religious, ethnic and economic boundaries
5. Youth boards, such as those established in Sweden, have had a measure of success in addressing those issues which foster crime.

Young children must be brought back into society and communities and not left to languish on the sidelines of the economy and their communities.

The plenary session of the third day would address:

- What are the challenges facing policy-makers in the region?
- What has worked and what has not worked?
- What can communities do together to implement the policies?

Mr. J Aketch
Former Mayor, Nairobi

On the continent of Africa youth crime is a new phenomenon. 30% of sub-Saharan Africa's population lives in the cities. Local authorities in Africa are increasingly confronted with youth at-risk. Youth at-risk includes all girls and boys whose living conditions, health, circumstances and behaviour place them at risk of victimisation and becoming involved in crime. Those most at-risk groups are:

- Children living in slums with little infrastructure or service delivery.
- Street children moving in gangs
- The unemployed and school drop –outs
- Those who abuse substances
- Orphans
- Child soldiers

Africa is experiencing high population growth rates of 3% to 4%. Urban populations have doubled to 550million with 30% to 40% of the continents national populations living in towns or cities. It has the highest global urban growth rate. If this trend continues African urbanisation will top out at 55% of her total population in the near future. The most rapidly urbanising countries are:

- Burkina Faso – 10 to 11%
- Mozambique - 8% to 9%
- Niger - 5%
- Madagascar and Tanzania – 5%
- Kenya -5%

None of these countries has an annual urban growth rate of less than 5 percent per annum. This paints a challenging picture of a future Africa - putting more urban youth at risk. Annual population growth rates are amongst the highest in the world and this is expected to remain so for at least the next two decades. All urban cities will double their current populations.

Results of rapid urbanisation:

- The youth constitute two thirds of the population on the continent, most of which will be concentrated in badly serviced cities and towns.
- Entrance into labour markets will further strain the unemployment situation
- In some countries in Africa 25% of the youth are unemployed
- Every year 790 000 young people join the potential economic active labour force, as opposed to only 60 000 jobs actually being created
- Overcrowding, with poor infrastructure and service delivery, will be the norm.
- Slums are growing at an alarming rate. In Kenya 7% of the urban pop lives in low income areas suffering a lack of infrastructure and basic services. In some slums

single female- headed households constitute 60% to 89% of the population with most of these females being uneducated. Most urban local authorities consider slums as illegal and hence the residents are denied land tenure whilst urban planning takes little account of their needs. The urban poor tend to be in conflict with the formalised areas.

Whilst poverty often results in aberrant behaviour, not all children from poor families become street children. Those brought up in loving environments find security in their poorer homes and do not gravitate to the streets. The fact is that the majority of street children originate from single female households. In 1992 the AU estimated that African had 16 million street children. This figure has tripled to over 45 million. The number of at-risk children will increase to 150 million. A study in Zambia found that the number of street children doubled in three years. Kenya has an estimated 30 000 street children.

Why should local authorities deal with street children and gangs? They:

- Provide urban structure and basic needs. Most local authorities in Africa have not been able to do so.
- Act as political centres as the derive their responsibility from the central government.
- Enjoy political support necessary to creating an enabling environment for NGOs and voluntary organisations.

Local authorities must endeavour to do the following:

- Work closer with their local communities
- Strengthen protective legislation for poor children
- Get support from local government which is at the forefront of the grass roots communities.

In Nairobi there is a National Youth Service Centre where street children can be trained in basic skills with some now working in the service industry or for themselves.

Moderator: **Mr A Badiane**,
Regional Director for Africa and Arab States, UN-HABITAT

Moderator: **Mr R Blandino Nerio**,
Mayor, Mejicanos Municipality, San Salvador, El Salvador/ CORDAID

Mr Nerio put forward the following challenge: The situation of young people all over the world is very complicated. What is needed is a more in-depth process to reflect on what is happening in modern society that leads to these anti-social situations among the youth? What generates these consequences? Something happens in societies and it is important to identify its structural causes and stop patching up the problem. Find a definitive solution!

Mr E Rodriguez',
Director of the Centro Latinoamericano sobre Juventud, Montevideo, Uruguay

Regionally and nationally, countries share many problems and because of this so countries must share their experiences as well. There are as many different types of violence as there different types of people, and the situation in Latin America is no different.

Violence in Argentina, Uruguay and Chile:

Violence in the main is due to de-industrialisation and little social integration of minority groups, different ethnicities and the urban poor.

Brazil, Mexico and Columbia:

Here violence is due to parallel government structures which exist side by side and the drug trade. Drug groups hire a lot of young people to carry out the distribution of drugs, and these activities brings with them their own set of complex dynamics.

Central America:

Here, there is inherited political conflict stemming from the 1980s. Furthermore, huge companies have set up businesses geared exclusively to exporting products to the USA. These large factories have not brought much employment opportunities but have influenced the youth in the area to want to move to the USA.

Colombia:
Overall the situation has improved with a marked decrease in violence in some areas.

Mexico:
Unfortunately, violent crime in Mexico is on the rise.

Crime has its own set of dynamics and complexities stemming from socio-economic conditions which permeate all poor communities. The problems are further worsened by police brutality. Although many authorities use the heavy-handed approach to dealing with criminal youth, it does not help in solving any problems. In fact, it creates the "us" against "them" syndrome.

Domestic violence:

Of increasing concern in all societies is the huge increase in domestic violence. Studies show that there is more violence occurring within homes and other nurturing institutions such as schools. Places that should be safe for children are increasingly being exposed to violent encounters.

When a community says its problems are a lack of security very often they are wrong. There is a huge difference between feeling unsafe and actually being unsafe. Insecurity cannot be measured because the feeling of insecurity is often greater than the perceived threat and these feelings of insecurity are compounded by the media which often chooses to portray only violence and crime – it sells.

Approaches to address violence:

- Citizenship Safety – advocated by Minister of the Interior. Objective is to protect property and persons.
- Economic approach. This approach uses costs, incentives and disincentives as a means to deal with violence.
- Public health approach which includes the generation of jobs and other work opportunities.

In cities where violence has been noticeably reduced, the following initiative were used:

1. In Medellin violence has been greatly reduced because of:
- Political interventions.
- Demobilisation of paramilitary groups, resulting in less conflict.
- Decrease in the influence of the Medellin drug cartel. Its activities have been almost eliminated in the city.

2. In Sao Paulo violence has decreased due to:
- Integrated public policies
- A better paid police force
- Closer collaboration with the media

3. El Salvador has experienced an increase in violence, one of the reason for which is the extremely heavy-handed attitude of the police force.

Programme Effectiveness:

1. Zero Tolerance (New York) – not very effective
2. Open Schools (Brazil) – an exceptionally successful programme. All public schools are opened up on weekends and holidays to communities and are used for sport and cultural activities resulting in better relationships across all sectors, less crime, less vandalism and more interaction between diverse groups.
3. Innovative experiences and youth participation in a variety of sectors i.e. controlling public policy by participating and verifying that municipal resources are being put to good use – moderate success.
4. Moral campaigns focussing on ethics and religion – unsuccessful
5. Internships and apprentice training – very successful
6. Community programmes – moderately successful but doubts as to whether they are sustainable
7. Juvenile justice systems – locking up children does not work
8. Rehabilitation and social integration – moderate success

Mr D Storey,
Lecturer & Head of Development Planning, School of Geography, Planning & Architecture, University of Queensland

Asia pacific encompasses 4 billion people of which 20% constitutes the youth.

Challenges faced in the region:

- 75% youth unemployment
- Cities are becoming expensive environments in which to live as well as more divisive and unequal
- Poverty and access to basic services
- Access to education and training
- Overcrowding
- Lack of representation in decision-making bodies

Three main triggers for violence:

1. Stresses on livelihoods forcing children to work in extremely lowly paid jobs.
2. Shelter and land are inaccessible to the poor excluding them from the benefits of ownership
3. Social concerns where cultural safety nets are breaking down and where the youth are seen an urban problem and not as being able to offer solutions

Successful programmes:

1. Innovative programmes which involve the youth
2. Partnerships with both communities, local authorities and national government

3. Building on cultural values
4. Develop inclusive citizenship

Lessons learned:

1. Need to strengthen existing institutions at local government level
2. Need to inculcate cultural values into all local institutions
3. Institute community policing
4. Institutions must reflect community values
5. Restorative justice systems must be implemented
6. Offer life skills training

"All youth are exposed potentially to risk factors and will enter into crime if it is the best way of ensuring support for the family and basic individual survival."

Fr A Rodriguez,
Programme Director, Adios Tatuajes, Mejicanos Municipality, San Salvador, El Salvador / CORDAID

Fr Rodriguez informed the delegates that in Gautemala and Equador there has been a stead increase in violent crime and the heavy handed attitude of the law enforcement authorities has not helped the situation at all. In fact, it has only made it worse.

Historically central South America comes from a political culture of repression, supported by legislation which oversaw the mass incarceration of citizens for arbitrary reasons. Mass executions took place and the state forces responsible for this brutality were never prosecuted. Because of this history of violence in attempting to achieve political ends, central South America continues to experience high levels of violence, particularly from right wing parties.

The police, either overtly or covertly, support these crimes against the youth. There is little communication within the justice system. Civil society, however, still believes that the solution lies in inculcating a culture of prevention of violence by strengthening the police force.

Programme: Challenge number 10

This is a programme that uses organised groups, like music groups, to nurture the youth to be supported and integrated into civil society. One aspect of gangsterism which is actively campaigned against is the tradition of tattooing. Tattooing is seen a synonymous with criminal activity and there is now medical assistance in place to assist with tattoo removal, thus removing the stigma attached to this art form.

Regardless of what programmes are considered for implementation, they will only work if applied nationally and regionally as crime is not confined within borders. South Central

America is looking to establish a regional platform with its objectives as being the promotion of youth programmes aimed at prevention and to co-ordinate all regional government and NGOs into a cohesive force to promote respect for human rights.

Mr S Sims,
District & Provincial Coordinator, Law & Justice Sector Program, Yumi Lukautim Mosbi Projek, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

It is the youth's call to make the future better. Mr Sim related his experiences with fighting crime in Papua New Guinea through community efforts. Several initiatives have been put in place, by the youth, all of which have contributed to the fall in crime levels:

1. Instituting gun-free zones
2. Creating gender-specific job opportunities
3. Working closely with police to root out criminal elements
4. Encouraging participation in music and cultural activities.

His Worship the Mayor, **Mr A Bendjo**,
Mayor, Plateau-Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire

Mr Bendjo stated that the Ivory Coast has, as part of its best practices, is the Organisation of Mayors. The prime function of this organisation is to share ideas on local government, monitor implementation polices and initiate integrated approaches to dealing with crime.

Questions, comments and answers

Lagos: The greatest challenge in Lagos right now is security, security and security, of both people and property. The Freedom Foundation has formed freedom life centres in areas where those who are the cause of so many of Lagos' problems are invited to participate in activities to help them become part of the solution. Here they are fed, entertained and interviewed. 90% of the children are "area boys/girls" or street children. These same people are being used as agents of change. There are particular areas of Lagos that are particularly violent. The street children have been trained by private security agencies in the positions of "guards" and have built between themselves and the police a security network. This programme is currently being rolled out in other areas.

Brazil: What sort of impact does this kind of programme have? Does it allow for systems of monitoring? What would the impact be when being applied to larger numbers of youth?

Ivory Coast: The Ivory Coast has an organisation of mayors called the African Forum of Urban Security. There are 198 mayors and whenever actions are taken at national level we are represented by this Association to put pressure on the government.

SA (SALGA): This organisation holds monthly meetings where municipalities come and present to the forum exactly what programmes have been introduced at local government level.

Kenya: Local Authorities are financially supported by national government. This funding is used at grass roots level to try and provide services to each councilor in the area. Each councilor consults with the elders of the communities as to how the community would like to see the money spent. There is also a fund available to community leaders and the youth who can choose a project for funding. 1m shillings has been set aside to develop sporting activities in local communities.

The Gambia: Gambia has a national youth parliament which gives a voice to young people. Each of the seven provinces has 30 youth parliamentarians representing the provinces. Each of the 30 members has five executive members which form an executive council and they are responsible for monitoring all youth activities.

Liberia: There is no concrete mechanism in place to allow for the monitoring and evaluation of policies decided at conferences of this nature. By far the biggest problem being experienced on the African continent is the lack of jobs. Engage young people, not governments. This conference must come up with an agreement, a recommendation which can and must be carried out.

BREAKAWAY SESSIONS

1. Youth And Children As Champions Of Community Safety For A Better World: Youth-Local Government Coordination Of Safety Initiatives (Organised By CSIR South Africa)

Moderator: **Paulin Mbecke**
CSIR – Safety & Security

A database is currently in the process of being established whereby the youth can submit their skills and work preferences and these will be accessible to any entity needing such skills. In other words a centralised skills pool.

The purpose of this tool is to enable discussion on how to map what resources young people and communities may posses which can be used to mitigate against them seeing crime as a viable alternative in the face of unemployment.
For crime to happen three fundamentals must be in place:

1. There must be an offender
2. There must be a vulnerable victim
3. The environment must be conducive to committing criminal acts

If any of one of the above three parameters do not exist, criminal activity cannot happen. If potential offenders are transformed into valuable members of society, the first parameter is removed. If victims are empowered to fight crime, the second is removed, and if local authorities are given the capacity within which to modify environments, the third is removed.

Good early child development (ECD) programmes assist with all three of the above scenarios. Furthermore ECD builds a culture of responsibility and support. Education also has a vital role to play in this regard, informing children of their choices and empowering them to make the correct life style changes.

Questions, answer and comments:

Comment: No comment has been made regarding the role poverty plays in criminal activity.

Answer: There will never be a situation of "no crime". The best we can strive for is a reduction in crime.

Comment: South Africa has a history of broken families. How are these being supported to ensure their basic needs are met?

Answer: Although there are grants systems in place the money received is not always used for its original intention. Social service programme must continue to run to cater to the basic needs of the poor but are not, in themselves, the answer.

Comment: There should be a greater emphasis on the family unit.

2. Crime Prevention In Brazil: The Leading Role Of Young People & The Youth And Police Project Brazil (Organised By Ilanud Brazil And Partners)
Sponsoring Institution: The Brazilian Office of the UN Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of the Offenders

Presentation by **Paula Miraglia** of the Brazilian Office of the UN
The purpose - to inform the audience on the various initiatives of combating youth crime in Brazil. These initiatives are largely coordinated by the Brazilian office of the UN Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of the Offenders. Homicide is the main challenge. Interventions:

- Artistic Groups - started with a newspaper publication and championed the setting up of 5 nuclei with 13 artistic groups. Major work is done in areas plagued by extreme cases of violence – the projects include theatre, graffiti, dance etc, and work in partnership with various organisations now.
- Have developed the idea of working with the police – and this has helped the black to end their aversion against police.
- Community police force programmes - police involved in youth activities. Built into this programme is an aspect of human rights
- Perceptions on the programme – it has motivated and provoked ideas and innovations; it has broken the cycle of violence; it motivates possibilities; it fosters one's identity.

3. Sports As A Tool For Crime Prevention And Active Non-Violence (By Un Office Of The Special Advisor On Sports For Development And Peace/ Kilimanjaro Initiative)

The United Nations realises the value of sport as a means to engender cross-cultural interaction between various communities which otherwise would be in conflict. It uses sport as a development tool amongst displaced communities, those affected by armed conflict and those involved in ethnic clashes.

Essentially the purpose is to use sporting role models in order to:

- Create pockets of friendship
- Educate and train in life skills (HIV AIDS awareness)
- Promote positive self-esteem through "gentle" competitiveness

Sport the world over brings people together. It is a wonderful tool which brings the youth into positively performing communities where their heroes are sport icons. It also instils

discipline in that any child that does not conform to the rules of training or the game does not get an opportunity to play. This teaches self-control, patience and the value of striving to perform better – train to succeed. Sport also enhances a physically healthy lifestyle as well as teaches the value of team effort and fair play.

Questions, answers and comments:

Question: Is it possible to have a global fund established to provide infrastructure for sporting facilities in poor countries?

Answer: There are channels available through the UN where funds can be allocated, under a strict set of rules, for assistance in this regard.

4. Hip Hop and Safer Cities - Art and Culture as a Community Engagement and Development Tool: From Policy to the Front Lines (By Remix Project Canada and Harvard University Boston)

Amanda Paris: Lost Lyrics (an idea that is on a journey)
Rapporteur: **Kate McTaggart**

Lost Lyrics is an initiative that grew from students aged between nine and 16 years. These students started a "live" report card where they told of what they learnt instead of writing it down. It has since developed into an alternative educaton programme used in Toronto.

Remix Projects

This is a media arts programme dedicated to assisting young artists and is used to promote and share art and culture as means to finding employment. The Remix Media Arts Business Programme is a short course lasting six months during which time students are taught how to structure songs and arrange music. Originally the idea was to compile two music albums and now the project has grown to include assistance with:

- Education
- Internships
- Finance (for two students)

Schools without borders:

Andrew Lenz spoke of this initiative which is currently operating in Brazil. It is essentially an alternative educational system, assisted by EBIS. Different programmes are offered i.e. photography for 16-24 year-olds. The programme is being expanded to include a free full media arts module with the added incentive of access to a recording studio.

Hip Hop Dolphins:

This initiative originated from "bling free" graffitti artists. There are no formal instructors which teach the hip hop genre and the students model themselves on hip hop role models. The programme is available free of charge. Students are encouraged to say what they feel and generally the course offered is very unstructured. Once a month 500 to 600 children get together to graffittize a wall.

LCYD:

This programme is more life-skills oriented and encourages children to discover themselves through the promotion of free thought.

Questions, answers and comments:

Question: Often females do not have a voice as they are restricted by societal boundaries. What programme could be developed to give them a voice?

Answer: Any programme must be tangible, something that the children can use, not necessarily technical skills.

5. Safe Schools And Restorative Justice Programmes (By Khulisa Crime Prevention Initiative/Raising Voices Uganda/ Story Moja Kenya)

Basil Wanjira – (Raising Voices – Uganda)

In Uganda, for the last 18 months they have been looking at the treatment of children in different schools in different ages and whether there could be alternative ways of treating them. Delegates did a visualisation exercise where they had to remember an even when they were 10 years old (bad or good) and retell it:

Learnt from this was:

- Children's experiences are lasting experiences.
- That learners are exposed to many dangers, which are not only physical but also emotional
- Make children a priority in the programmes we design.
- Parenting skills are pivotal
- Schools are a part of a broader

Mr Wanjira then showed a film of Amina, a schoolgirl who was sexually violated by her teacher and encouraged by Pastor to speak up. He then outlined the programmes and materials developed b the organisation to deal with issues affecting children in school.

School Activities Steering Committee In Kenya) – sharing the Kenyan experience

- The Kenyan concept of Safer Schools Zone was shared with three pillars being a secure environment; second is Healthy environment and promotion of education. They highlighted indicators and emphasised the importance of life skills in school.

Khulisa crime prevention presentation:

Khulisa started off its presentation by playing a video depicting the life interventions they have and the rehabilitated youth shared their experiences from rehabilitation, forgiveness and re-integration to community.

Comments from floor:

- monitoring system for feeding schemes (officers who go to the ground
- Children's behaviour is not in isolation of the behaviours of children around them. Let us look at ourselves
- Every child model behaviours
- NGOs to start working together and not against each other, even from a funding point of view.

6. Childhood In The City And Safe Urban Spaces: The Role Of Young People In The Rescue Of Public Spaces In Mexico And Beyond (By The Government Of Mexico)

Facilitator **Mr L Morano**, Department of Social Development, Mexico.
Rapporteur: **Judy Carpenter**

Focussing on: Rescuing public spaces

Challenges which confront all societies:

- Delinquency
- Drug abuse
- Gangsterism
- Lack of communication
- Distrust in authorities

- Family disintegration
- Little neighbourly contact

The Changed face of Mexico's Public Spaces:

- Whereas before Mexico was a conduit for the transport of drugs, it is now big consumer of drugs (18% of the youth) and this consumption takes place in public spaces.
- Many public spaces have been abandoned over the last ten years due to a lack of security and safety.
- People stopped using public spaces, left sports clubs and parks, and visited private spaces such as malls and built up shopping area.
- There is marked lack of public spaces where there is just no available space for parks.

Reasons why public spaces are not used:

A survey recently done in Mexico among its inhabitants showed that:

1. 83% stated a lack of tranquillity
2. 91% cited insecurity
3. 69% think there is a lack of public spaces for use
4. 75% think sports facilities are inadequate
5. 78% stated that there is a lack of public spaces

The Mexican government has established a national strategy for safety and security. This strategy is being implemented with regard to public spaces and is co-ordinated by the President's Office, assisted by the Ministries of Security, Education, Justice and Social Development.

Ministry of Safety and Security:
This has the role of providing information to the other ministries.

Ministry of Social Development:
Rescues and appropriates public spaces and assists with preventing crime.

Ministry of Education:
It has instituted a Safe School programme which entails a parents' committee being established in each school. This committee decides on which activities will be undertaken at the school to prevent crime i.e. drug searches, educational programmes on drugs and gangsterism.

Ministry of Health:
This Ministry identifies addictive behaviour and refers those affected for professional help as well as providing counselling and support campaigns.

Programme: Rescue Public Spaces -

This programme identifies:

- Meeting points and sites suitable for public gatherings
- Grounds for recreational and cultural activities

At present the programme is active in those areas with a population greater than 50 000. All projects cover all aspects of public spaces: the infrastructure, promoting social participating.

Public spaces are meeting points in the cities where everyone can interact and respond to the needs of everyone around them. When citizens occupy public spaces, delinquency retreats. The goal is to encourage community participation in every phase of the project and the communities decides and organises what activities will taken place in its local public space.

The programme receives 50% of its budget from national government, given through local authorities and with certain terms and conditions attached. The community prepares and validates the projects to which the funds must be allocated.

What is promoted in public spaces:

- Urban and landscaped design
- Integrated social activities
- Sporting facilities
- Security
- Recreational activities
- A neighbourhood watch which also oversees its local public space and sees to it maintenance.

Who has benefited:

- Over 4 million inhabitants
- 850 public spaces have been recovered
- 1 000 sports facilities have been built
- Landscaping initiatives with large forestation taking place
- 1 200 play grounds established
- 11 000 street lamps erected

Monitoring and Evaluation:

In order to ascertain the effectiveness of the government's policies re public spaces, the following measures are carried out:

1. Yearly surveys among the users of the parks
2. Intervention programmes as soon as problems are identified.

Conclusion:

1. Establish clear rules
2. Always work in partnership with local government
3. Don't impose universal solutions
4. involve the community
5. design inclusive public spaces
6. design crime-prevention oriented public spaces
7. Promote the community of co-responsibility
8. Thank of public spaces as a place and as an activity
9. Promote inter-sectoral co-operation
10. Investing in public spaces leads to political profit.

Comment: The programme took about ten years to get off the ground and would never have happened without the assistance of civil society. Volunteers are essential to establish get the whole concept off the ground, built and finally handed over to the community.

Comment: How participatory are the budget allocations and who defines the set of rule attached to the money given?

Answer: Regarding allocating federal resources an objective formula is used and this formula includes the prevailing crime rate and perceptions of insecurity. If it is realised that the resources are not being correctly used the funds can be stopped and applied to another municipality. The operating rules are defined by the Federal government. However, each community designs its own public space, within reason.

Question: How sustainable is the approach?

Question: Who is responsible for maintenance of the public spaces?

Answer: The Municipality maintains public spaces.

Question: How pro-poor is this approach?

Answer: The work of our organisation is not carried out in middle income or low density areas. The upgrading of public spaces is carried out predominantly poorer areas.

7. Youth And Children As Champions Of Community Safety For A Better World: Actions That Have Worked In The Commonwealth (By Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre For Africa)

The Commonwealth Secretariat started in 1965 with a membership of 53 countries. Its Youth Programme is the only division of the Commonwealth that has offices outside of London: in the Caribbean, South Pacific, Asia, India and Africa.

The youth programme used by the Commonwealth was developed by the youth, civil society and government and has as its main focus the empowerment of the youth. The programme put in place commission whose mission was to look at issues of conflict and crime, the roles of the youth in this regard, the influence of the media and those institutions which promote peace and understanding.

"In the conflict, youth were both victims and perpetrators of human rights violation on a massive scale. It was a dual role to which youth became accustomed in post-independence Sierra Leone; on one hand they were abused, on the other hand they became the abusers."

-(Enssah, Sierra Leone)

If we engage young people positively, the results will be positive. In Sierra Leone the main perpetrators of violence were the youth but it must be realised that the directors of the violence were all adults who do not put themselves on the frontlines. However, this begs the question: Do we blame adults for all the crime committed by the youth?

"I was part of the war and there is a direct link between poverty and war. I didn't join the rebels because of anything, but sometimes you are forced to join. I know the harm it caused me emotionally, educationally and economically. People capitalized out of this situation. You can get anything you want if you want a gun. We were desperate. There is a direct link between poverty and war." (Quote from the floor)

The conflict in Sierra Leone was basically founded on extreme inequality of distribution of resources and political manipulation of the youth by leaders.

In Burma crime is promoted through high levels of drug abuse.

1. What are the major theories for understanding youth drug use and delinquency?
2. What are the leading factors for drug use and delinquency?
3. How these factors affect to youth?

Questions, answers and comments:

Comment: If prime were to prevented, the young people should be empowered. Make them productive and resourceful. This is what we need to do after this conference –

concrete actions. If we can do this in one country, it will follow in other countries. Countries experiencing war gives you the situation of ex-combatants roaming around. This creates volatility in those countries. We need to have a youth to youth approach. Provide decent jobs for the youth. Empowerment should be the means of ending violence.

Comment: If you look at this conference at a whole, how many youths attended this conference? Where is the people of Africa and Internationally. This conference is inaccessible to the youth.

8. Children and Youth In Organised Armed Violence - Incorporating Child And Youth Participation In Developing Integrated Public Policy For Prevention (By Coav Brazil And South Africa)

Samantha Waterhouse (SA) and **Claresa** (Brazil) - involved with an NGO based in Brazil which has projects four cities including Cape Town in South Africa. In 2003 there was the promulgation of the Disarmament Law in Brazil, which aimed at disarming youth and gave them incentives for handing over their guns. The main idea was that disarmament could foster a drop in the number of homicides. Brazil, especially cities like Rio de Janeiro have high levels of deaths from firearms.

COAV' s main objectives was to carry out diagnostic research to identify the main causes and levels of organized youth crime; and to develop local preventive and intervention measures aimed at curbing organized youth crime.

Recommendations

1. The family must be involved in the programmes that are aimed at the prevention as well as amelioration of youth violence. In fact, the various rehabilitation and re-integration programmes must involve families, communities and the youths themselves.
2. Juvenile justice system should innovate alternative sentencing schemes for the youth
3. Establishment of multitask rehabilitation centres
4. Reduce marginalization and stigmatization of "young, black, poor and under-educated" group.
5. Improve the relations between the youth and the police as a way of doing away with the notion that violence against the youth in the only necessary tool that can help end youth crime.
6. Although girls are not directly involved in organized youth violence, they play a role as girlfriends, sisters, and mothers. These need to be neatly integrated.

Samantha Waterhouse: COAV in Cape Town - in Cape Town there is a range factors that foster a culture of organized youth crime and violence: drug trafficking, theft, the taxi industry, taverns etc. There is rampant rape among the gangs, and generational

connections in this culture. Once in the gang, one becomes locked up in that institution because there is sometimes a pervasive feeling that you cannot avoid it or get out of it and survive.

NB: Basically Samantha presented findings of an Institute for Security Studies study led by DR Catherine L Ward and published under the title "It Feels like It's the End of the World": Cape Town's Youth Talk about Community Violence (2007) Copied supplied. What children recommended – One on one post violence counseling programmes, police to patrol schools, need for school inspectors, need for after school activities, eliminate access to illicit alcohol points, improvement of the justice system (some felt a need for dealt death penalty), positive media involvement – media should present positive role models.

9. Youth, Sports and Urban Spaces: Towards 2009 International Conference On Sporting Facilities For Safer Neighbourhoods (By The Kenya Government)

Kenya is planning for high quality urban living standards only well developed cities with clear development strategies can attract investment. It is currently investing huge amounts of money in developing tourism, agriculture, the wholesale and retain sector, manufacturing and financial services sector. The process thus far has been extremely collaborative involving input from all sectors in the business sphere.

The key issues facing this development are:

- Opportunities for the young
- Affordable education
- Capacity building and empowerment

The youth are involved in all of the above discussions and will be asked to contribute towards the management and maintenance of sport facilities.

The Safe Neighbourhood Network (SNN) was established to facilitate communication at all levels and to:

- Take advantage of existing sporting facilities
- Develop new facilities
- Rehabilitate those in decay
- Establish sport tournaments

In order to ensure that sufficient funding and expertise is available to achieve these goals the Kenyan authorities are joining forces with sponsors and the private sector.

10. Positive Beats From City Streets Part Iv (By Baobab Connection)

A variety of presenters each gave a brief overview of programmes and initiatives currently implemented in a variety of communities.

1. Nairobi:
A project is in place where the youth are trained in football skills and music. They then go on to train other groups of children.

2. Nairobi:
A group standing for Human Rights and opposing the current Kenyan government uses hip hop as a vehicle for protest.

3. Young Madzadai (Young Women):
This organisation is concerned primarily with young women aged between nine and 18 years. They vehicle for expression is poetry. They are fundamentally opposed to hip hop due to its association with drugs.

4. Malcolm X Mass Movement:
The movement organises activists opposed to racism through the media of hip hop.

5. Black August Project:
This is a cop-watch project put in place to defend communities against police brutality.

6. Artists from Godessa:
This organisation helps young artists to travel abroad in order to gain experience and expand their horizons. It currently provides school uniforms to 500 children in four schools.

7. Hip Hop Association from Brooklyn:
Essentially this movement was established to empower communities through media.

8. Palestinian Hip Hop – Slingshot:
This group is politically motivated with its message portrayed through lyrics and literature.

11. Restorative Justice And Voice Beyond The Walls (By Phoenix Zululand And Unodc)

Phoenix Zululand depicted their Restorative Programme through story telling and plays. Programmes. The organisation is working with inmates and some were in attendance to share their stories and the rehabilitation process.

The UN Office For Drugs And Crime made a presentation on the UNODC Programme in Restorative Justice. The Bill for Juveniles in conflict with the law is to be adopted next week.UNODC has supported restorative justice and alternatives to incarceration.

Programmes that have been regarded progressive included family conferencing, letter of apology etc.

The UNODC proposals have been borrowed and implemented in many countries in Africa. Encouraged everyone to think about how restorative justice can work for all.

Questions and Comments from the floor:

- If this restorative justice without proper education it might end up with people perceiving that democracy is making a life of criminals soft without considering the hurt and the trauma of the victims.
- Crime must be stigmatised.
- The problem with restorative justice is that it sets up a dichotomy between the perpetrator and a victim. There is a sequence of causes that leads to someone doing wrong – it seems that the task is to move the story telling into the hands of those in prison. The task for restorative justice is to resurrect the cripple personalities that jail produces.
- Victims must be supported to deal with restorative justice.
- Tired of conferences that take resolutions and do not implement them.

12. Childhood in the City and Safe Urban Spaces: (By Unicef)

This session was cancelled due to no representation from UNICEF.