



UN-HABITAT

International Youth Crime Prevention & Cities Summit

17 - 21 June 2008, Durban, South Africa



Backgrounder 2

The provincial government of KwaZulu-Natal and UN-HABITAT will host the International Youth Crime Prevention and Cities Summit 2008, in the city of Durban 17-21 June 2008. The objective is to prevent and reduce crime and violence in our cities, towns and villages.

Designed for young people and local authorities who work with them, this four-day event will enable all participants to mobilize, to learn, to experience, to speak, and to act.

The International youth crime prevention and cities summit is the culmination of a series of regional forums that started in June 2002 to find new ways of tackling urban youth crime and violence in Africa and Latin America. It also springs from global partnerships with youth organizations which participated in the second and third meetings of the World Urban Forum in Barcelona in 2004, and Vancouver in 2006.

Durban will seek to consolidate the gains made so far, review regional strategies and initiate a series of pro-poor and pro-youth initiatives to help attain the Millennium Development Goals agreed by world leaders. The Summit is also designed as a preparatory event for the 4th session of the World Urban Forum to be held in Nanjing, China, 3-7 November 2008.

The idea

The International youth crime prevention and cities summit, which is expected to draw at least 500 participants from South African and around the world, will work with young people under 25 as active partners to see how youth can help drive community safety and help their peers and neighbourhoods in the fight against crime. It will also help develop best practices in crime prevention, examine and come up with new ideas on how education and training can be used to promote citizenship values and build employable skills.

Emphasis will be placed on the expertise of young people from poor backgrounds who live in daily fear of crime. They will share their experiences on dealing with street gangs, reconciliation and reintegration in post-conflict situations, and victims. There will be a special focus on role models and celebrities who come from tough neighbourhoods.

What will take place?

Participants will use their creativity, insight and thoughts on positive development measures to address crime prevention in their neighbourhoods, schools and communities by attending interactive workshops, participating in open platforms for expression and field trips.

Through dialogues with local government and police, youth will voice their ideas on how best cities can integrate the positive energies of young people, particularly in marginalized neighbourhoods and voice their recommendations for policymakers on reducing crime and violence.

And all participants have networking opportunities to build friendships and partnerships at breakfasts, luncheons, and evening receptions.



Who should come?

- You! Crime prevention is a common responsibility for all!
- Youth (participate in the Baobab on-line competition and make your contribution felt!)
- Adults who work with and for youth
- Local Governments - Mayors and city officials
- Police
- Community leaders
- Practitioners
- International development specialists

What's working from previous regional forums

Some of the results of the last two conferences include:

- Young people are working on a global partnership initiative for youth in Africa.
- Young people and municipalities are creating youth center models working within municipalities frameworks.
- Young people are upgrading sports fields as places for youth socialization, participation and income generation in the neighbourhoods.
- Young people are establishing annual youth violence prevention weeks and dialogues in school and at the community on active non-violence.
- Youth attendees are planning their own mini-forums in their cities on positive engagement of hip-hop as a tool for neighbourhood revitalization.
- And many more!