PUTTING SAFETY AT THE CORE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENDA
INTRODUCTION
The African Forum for Urban Safety (AFUS) is a forum that derives its mandate from the establishment of the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC) by UN-Habitat at the 6th session of the World Urban Forum in Naples, Italy in September 2012.

It enables and facilitates peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and joint knowledge generation, support and collaboration. The knowledge generation that occurs on urban safety, crime prevention and social cohesion is imperative towards the creation of African cities which are able to foster strong economies as well as healthy living environments for its respective citizens and also contribute to the development discourse of their respective states. The Forum also enables evidence-based learning to inform urban policy, planning and management to build safer cities in Africa.

AFUS network aims to strengthen crime prevention and reduction policies at the local level and to promote the role of local authorities in national and African policies on safety and security. The Forum should also act as a lobby group in facilitating the participation of local government in the formulation; evaluation and implementation of the African Union (AU) peace and security policies.

AFUS is largely influenced by the work of the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme whereby African leaders at city level had gained interest towards cultivating and addressing urban safety issues, crime prevention and violence through the establishment of crime prevention strategies within the local government context.

BACKGROUND
During the past 20 years, the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme has provided local governments in Africa with technical support in the development and implementation of city-wide crime prevention and urban safety strategies. The UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme further supported cities in South Africa to convene two major international conferences that contributed to the development of AFUS.

In 1998, the City of Johannesburg hosted the International Conference on Crime Prevention Partnerships to Build Community Safety in which the International Forum of Mayors declared to actively promote and contribute to the implementation of the action plan to foster urban safety and reduce delinquency, violence and insecurity. The action plan suggested, among others, that municipal authorities should promote the creation of national Forums of Cities for Urban Safety. Then, in 2003, the City of Durban hosted the 2nd International
Conference on Crime Prevention Partnerships (Sustainable Safety: Municipalities at Cross Roads). This conference outcome called on cities to create the Africa Forum for Urban Safety.

At the 6th Session of the Africities Summit held in Dakar, Senegal, in December 2012, Durban received the support of African cities through a declaration that was adopted at this meeting, with the vision of developing a regional institutional framework that could serve as the mouthpiece for cities to the Africa Union (AU) and other related regional and sub-regional inter-governmental bodies and institutions. Also in 2012, the UN-Habitat established the Global Network on Safer Cities to enable structured dialogue, amongst cities, on crime prevention and urban safety plans, the exchange of knowledge, development of learning and innovation and the facilitation of local solutions to crime, violence and insecurity.

In 2015, the AFUS was launched and since then, two sessions have taken place, the first was held in March 2016 and the second session was held in April 2017 by the City of Durban as the secretariat. In the second session, an Advisory Council for AFUS was established and the manifesto in line with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals was adopted.

The role of city governments in local crime prevention began at the Mayors’ International Conference in Montreal (1989) and Paris (1991). Since 1996, several cities in Africa have established city crime prevention and urban safety strategies, amongst others: Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town (South Africa), Abidjan and 10 other municipalities (Ivory Coast), Antananarivo (Madagascar), Yaoundé and Douala (Cameroon), Bamako (Mali), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Dar es Salaam and 13 other municipalities (Tanzania) and Nairobi (Kenya).

Further requests for technical support have been received from Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Benin, CAR, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Zambia, Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan, Egypt, Morocco, and Liberia.

The immediate objectives of AFUS are to:

- Consolidate, develop and promote the exchange of experiences between African cities/towns, and building a distinct community of practice, possibly on thematic levels which is also linked to the implementation of the safer cities approach; fostering the sharing of knowledge amongst African cities/towns.
- Develop practical tools for the implementation of urban crime prevention and safety policies and initiatives, preventing crime, violence and insecurity.
- Develop exchange and collaboration mechanisms between the various municipal safer cities coordinating teams.
- Develop a regional position and capacity for local government involvement in the global and regional initiatives on crime prevention, peace building and governance.

**STRATEGIC APPROACH**

AFUS seeks to implement the following strategic directions:

- Improving access to the region’s urban safety information;
- Sharing and reapplying experiential knowledge;
- Leveraging technology for safer cities;
- Fostering an enabling environment;
- Facilitating an approach which allows close and clever cooperation with and from the police as actor of prevention as well as actor of law enforcement;
- Promoting forms of alternative justice;
- Analysing and promoting successful experiences of cross-cutting approaches of prevention within Municipal departments; and
- Analysing successful experiences of national replication of safer cities.

**AREAS OF INTERVENTION**

The AFUS programme is cognizant of the fact that there are particular thematic areas related to societal, spatial planning and policy formulation issues through which the programme aims to pay attention to in combatting urban safety. The main areas of
intervention in relation to the AFUS programme include the following:

- Problem oriented and community based policing (municipal/metropolitan)
- Prevention of youth violence, youth at risk and youth justice
- Prevention of violence against women and children – Women’s safety
- Urban design and management of public space
- Local governance of safety with community involvement and participation
- Mainstreaming community safety in municipal planning and national policies
- Peace-building and conflict prevention at local level
- Institution-building

**KEY PRODUCTS**

The following key products that are to be delivered if AFUS is to achieve its objectives:

- The establishment of a regional **online resource facility** on safer cities and development and maintenance of a website to foster exchange of information and debate.
- Regional **compendium and database of promising practices** on Safer Cities which will be updated on a periodical basis.
- Regional **Experts Database** on Safer Cities.
- Regional and National **Guidelines** on Safer Cities.
- Safer Cities **Toolkit** including an urban safety monitoring tool.
- Africa Safer Cities **Campaign** with establishment of sub-regional and national forums for urban safety.
- **City to City Networking and Training Programme** including Regional Conferences

**TARGET AUDIENCE FOR THE AFUS PROGRAMME**

The target audience of the AFUS Programme is however broad and not merely limited to the city level of government due to the fact that urban safety requires various expertise from institutions, professions and academia in addressing urban insecurity. The target audience of the AFUS programme therefore includes the following audience:

- Mayors and councillors.
- Directors of Technical services with local authorities.
- Non-Governmental Organisations.
- Senior Local Government Officials.
- City Manager/Town Clerks.
- Chief Financial Officers.
- Chief Executive Officers.
- National governments (Ministries in charge of urban planning, urban development or public administration, parliamentarians).
- Local government associations.
- Local government representatives, including mayors and local councillors, especially women.
- Head of African Union and selected officers.
- Civil society and private sector observers.
- Academia and other experts.
- Representation from the youth and gender categories.

**HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?**

♦ **Official Launch of AFUS**
EThekwini Municipality in partnership with UN Habitat and supported by National Department of Human Settlement hosted a media launch for AFUS during 7th African Cities Summit in November 2015.

AFUS was presented to African Mayors and Ministers as the local government ‘community of practice’ which will be leading the mainstreaming of crime prevention and safety within the African continent.

Microsoft was engaged on possible partnership with the Municipality using safety as an entry point. This is meant to
leverage the Corporation capabilities on the innovation and technology space to advance safety within the Municipality and local government in the continent.

♦ 2016 Inaugural Learning Exchange

EThekweni Municipality working together with United Cities and Local Governments - Africa (UCLGA), UN Habitat and national Department of Human Settlements in partnership with Microsoft hosted the inaugural learning exchange in June 2016. The Exchange which was attended by Mayors, local government practitioners, national governments, civil society, business and academia discussed key urban safety aspect including the use of technology to support timeous and cost effective data collection. Another key important discussion was the role of cities in crime and violence prevention. This was supported by the 20 years of experience and practice on urban safety since the launch of Safer Cities Programme in 1996.

The key theme for AFUS inaugural learning exchange “Towards Collective Action for the Creation of Africa’s Safer Cities – Vision 2030” was followed by the adaptation of the Manifesto on the Durban Engagement as a declaration of concrete recommendations and actions for creation of Safer Cities for all.

The Manifesto on the Durban Engagement is a political platform on urban safety which brings together the values drawn from the learning exchange during AFUS first conference. Building on the principles and recommendations advocated by AFUS community of practice, the manifesto will serve as a future action plan for local authorities for the implementation of integrated and effective interventions.

♦ 2016 AFUS Political Bureau

In March 07, 2016, a Political Bureau was hosted in Durban to finalise the substantive matters for the learning exchange, which was hosted during June 29 - July 01, 2016 in Durban. During this session, a concept note and draft programme for the first AFUS Learning Exchange was produced.

This session was attended by the Vice Mayor of Quito and Co-Chair for Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC) who addressed the Bureau and indicated that local government in the world was looking up to Durban when it comes to implementation of safer cities programme. She also emphasised that Quito was in support of Durban as the Co-Chair of GNSC.

♦ Habitat III process and Urban Safety

AFUS through Chair Cllr Zandile Gumede has made important contribution in the development of the global framework guiding the implementation of 2030 sustainable development agenda in the form of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially Goal 11, “Making Communities and Human Settlement safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable” read in conjunction with Goal 5, 15 and 16. Cllr Gumede started making enormous input in this process as the Chair of the then Emergency and Social Services Committee. Through her leadership
and serious interest on urban safety she ensure that the Municipality through Safer Cities and the then Mayor’s Office participated in different regional session including Western Africa Symposium on Strategies to Address Urban Safety, Abuja Habitat III Thematic Session and Pretoria Thematic Session.

Close to the hosting of Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador, the Municipality under new leadership of Mayor Gumede and New Chair of AFUS hosted an Urban Breakfast which was attended by local government practitioners, academia, representatives from all spheres of government, organised civil society, organised business and UN Agencies. The rationale behind the breakfast was to consolidate input into country position on Habitat III with an emphasis on the recognition of cities and local government complementary role and need for support especially on Human Settlement and Urban Safety.

♦ Habitat III Conference

The Municipality actively participated in Habitat III Conference. The delegation to Quito was led by Cllr Mondli Mthembu. Although the Municipality has a special responsibility to participate in Urban Safety related session, it was agreed that some delegates will represent the Municipality in different areas including place making, resilience and climate change, disaster preparedness, informal settlement and housing and local government governance. The Municipality’s Safer City Programme was also exhibited on the UN Habitat world of world’s illustrative programmes; and it was the only programme on safer cities which was given that space.

♦ 2017 AFUS Political Bureau

eThekwini Mayor, Cllr Zandile Gumede convened AFUS Political Bureau in April 2017 to present the programme meant to facilitate the mainstreaming of safety at the core of local government development agenda. The 2017 AFUS Political Bureau provided an opportunity to review of the AFUS manifesto against the NUA Paragraphs 100 and 103 and related Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs 11, 5, 16 and 17 to strengthen the role of cities and local authorities in addressing crime and violence. Furthermore, it was to address the role of local governments in the Aspiration 4 of the Africa Agenda 2063, which is about a peaceful and secure Africa where there shall be safe and peaceful spaces for individuals, families and communities.

This AFUS Political Bureau established the AFUS Advisory Council that will provide strategic guidance to the leadership of AFUS. Further, the Bureau considered and adopted the programme of action for AFUS. It is during this session that the Mayor was asked to represent local government during the UN Habitat 26th Session of the Governing Council.

♦ 2017 Urban Thinkers Campus

With an aim to improve delivery on the local needs of the Municipality while leveraging the opportunities presented by 2030 sustainable development agenda, the Municipality made written input toward the development of the NUA National Implementation Plan which will be formally launched during the coming 2017 World Cities Day (31 October, Moses Mabhida Stadium). The Municipality also hosted Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) during 5 April where internal and external stakeholders engaged on how to address urban safety in public spaces. The last session of the April engagement was the hosting of Management Seminar.

♦ 2017 Urban Safety Management Seminar

Partnership is the key. Management Breakfast Session was hosted as the last session of the April Political Bureau. The target audience for the seminar was eThekwini Municipality’s strategic and operational management. The main purpose of the seminar was to allow eThekwini Management to receive the report on the Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) and engage on what should be collective action to advance safer cities with all strategic partners involved. During the discussions, it became evident that there was a need to establish an integrated structure which will allow all Municipality’s departments to work together for the co-production of safety.

♦ Madrid Forum on Co-Existence

eThekwini Municipality through AFUS continue to advocate for support to local government around the implementation of urban safety programmes. The Municipality
recently presented during the first World Forum on Co-Existence hosted by the Mayor of Madrid. During this session the Municipality highlighted the direct and indirect negative impact of violence and crime to cities. The comprehensive and integrated approach of the Municipality was presented as the promising practice that could be adopted to in the design and implementation of urban safety strategies.

♦ 26th Session of UN Habitat Governing Council

As per the resolution of AFUS Political Bureau, the Mayor attended the 26th Session of UN Habitat Governing Council. During the Governing Council, the Mayor addressed two sessions where she advocated for improved support to eThekwini Municipality as the ‘City laboratory’ for urban safety innovations. She further indicated the Municipality was more than ready to develop innovation which could be adopted as good practice within South Africa, within the African continent and the world. Her message was well received and the UN Habitat member states felt that more partnership with eThekwini Municipality may advance urban safety agenda within the context of Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

The Municipality working together with national Department of Human Settlement and Department of International Relations drafted and submitted a Governing Council Resolution asking for improved support to local government initiatives on urban safety. The resolution was presented by South Africa to African countries and eventually it became an Africa Group sponsored resolution. Key areas identified for concerted support are the development of data collection capabilities in local government to support evidence based policy, strategy and practice, open data policies and platforms and the provision of required financial and technical resources within available resources in UN Habitat.

HOW FAR STILL TO GO

AFUS focus in the this 10 years will be on mainstreaming safety planning and implementation within Local Governments in Africa will be to:

1. Consolidate, develop and promote the exchange of experiences between African cities/towns, and building a distinct community of practice
   - Regional Online Facility for Safer Cities
   - Content Management for the online facility
   - Documentation of Safer Cities promising (innovative) practices in line with post 2015 development agenda (SDGs and NUA)
   - Virtual Meeting Platform

2. Develop practical tools for the implementation of urban crime and violence prevention
   - Development of guidelines based on practice (localisation of SDG 11,7 and New Urban Agenda – data collection, establishment of national safety forums, production of city safety reports)
   - Support production of national safe city report

3. Develop exchange and collaboration mechanisms between the various municipal safer cities coordinating teams
   - Promote City –City Cooperation on crime and violence prevention
   - Undertake capacity building for safer cities practitioners
   - Lead and support the establishment of sub-regional and national forums for safer cities

4. Develop a regional position and capacity for local government involvement in the global and regional initiatives on crime prevention, peace building and governance
   - Establish AFUS Secretariat with eThekwini Municipal structure
   - Establish Decision and Consultative structures
   - Develop Regional Database of Safer Cities Experts
   - Profiling of AFUS

♦ AFUS-eThekwini Legacy Project - Safety Audit

EThekwini Municipality has been requested to participate in the global project aimed at developing urban safety monitoring capabilities at local government level. AFUS-eThekwini
Legacy Project allows the Municipality to undertake municipal wide safety audit to support the review of crime and violence prevention strategy. As the core part of this project, the Municipality working together with all stakeholders and implementing agent will develop framework for urban safety monitoring and develop content for capacity building for both elected and appointed officials.

The outputs from this project will support other Municipalities initiatives including urban regeneration, urban management and human settlement programmes amongst the list. The public space audit using technology will form part of this project and is aimed and addressing women safety in public spaces, let it be bus stops, train station, markets, squares, one parks and boulevards.

The Municipality is receiving seed funding of R1.6 million from the UN Habitat, technical support and participation in global learning opportunities. Project induction was held in Medellin and the Municipality participated. The study visit will be conducted in Barcelona during November 2017 and it will coincide with European Forum for Urban Safety (EFUS) Congress.

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The Municipality is part of three municipalities which were globally chosen to be part of this programme. Queretaro in Mexico and Cartagena in Colombia are other two municipalities which are part of this programme. EThekwini Municipality is supported by UN Habitat while other two municipalities are supported by United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

♦ 2nd AFUS Learning Exchange

The Municipality working together with United Cities and Local Governments -Africa (UCLGA), Department of Human Settlement, South African Cities Network and South African Local Government Association is hosting the Second (2nd) AFUS Learning Exchange. The Learning Exchange is hosted at an opportune time post the adoption of the new Urban Agenda (NUA) and it provides an opportunity for cities and local government to engage and discuss how urban safety will be advance within the context of the global, regional and national commitments and priorities. The theme of the Learning Exchange, “Creating Safer Cities for All-Implementation of New Urban Agenda”, capture the orientation of the Learning Exchange.

The Learning Exchange will be hosted within a week which has be dubbed, “eThekwini Urban Week”, starting on 30 October to 3 November 2017. South African Cities Network is hosting Urban Conference on the 30 October, 31 October will be the national observation of World Cities Day and as from 1-3 November the Municipality with all partners will be hosting AFUS Learning Exchange.

The theme that cut arcos all the Urban Week events is the implementation of New Urban Agenda. The focus areas for the learning exchange will include effective justice system; monitoring capabilities and reporting; safety; capacity building and youth, crime and violence.