

THEMATIC SESSION 6: Social cohesion in a caring city

Session organized by the City of Johannesburg

Date: 18 July 2013
Time: 16:30 – 18:00
Venue: Ballroom 3

PROGRAM

Opening: Facilitator, **Prof. Leila Patel**, Professor of Social Development Studies and Director of the Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA), University of Johannesburg

Speakers:

- **Dr. Loren B. Landau**, Director, African Centre for Migration and Society, WITS
- **Katherine Liao**, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Dr. Renu Khosla**, Director at CURE India
- **Juan David Valderrama López**, Executive Director at the Agency for Cooperation and Investment (ACI), Medellín

Summary of key issues by facilitator

Panel discussion and questions from audience

SUMMARY

Cities are the barometer from which we may measure the well being of a society. They are the places where societies are made or broken. They are spaces of triumph, spaces where we struggle to make our voices heard, places where the fight for justice is lost or won. Cities are an embodiment of our greatest fears and darkness; they represent moments of recovery and resilience and moments of disaster. A just urban society makes freedom, liberty, equality and democracy an everyday living reality. Gross inequality is powerfully visible in cities.

BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

- How can we make our cities more socially equitable and just?
- What is the role of city governments in working towards facilitating social justice and cohesion?