

CARING CITIES

METROPOLIS ANNUAL MEETING HOSTED BY THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

OPENING CEREMONY

Date: 17 July 2013

Time: 9:00 – 10:30

Venue: Ballroom 1, 2 and 3

PROGRAM

Welcome and programme director: Mpho Franklyn (Parks) Tau, Executive Mayor of Johannesburg

Welcome address:

- **Nomvula Mokonyane**, Gauteng Premier
- **Michael Müller**, Acting President of Metropolis and Mayor of Berlin
- **Dra. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira**, Deputy Executive Director of UN Habitat

Key note address: Minister Trevor Manuel, National Planning Commission

SUMMARY

In a world characterized by increasingly unequal wealth distribution and access to natural resources, the members of Metropolis, at the initiative of Mr. Mpho Franklyn Tau, mayor of Johannesburg, are studying an emerging concept in development: “caring cities.”

Caring cities are cities that seek to ensure that citizens achieve the highest quality of life. Caring cities are cities that work with citizens to build their individual and collective capacities. Caring cities are cities that work with their residents on the basis of their capabilities and not just on the basis of their needs. Caring cities regard citizens as active participants in the planning of the city and the delivery of services. Caring cities respect their citizens and ask that citizens in turn exercise both their rights and responsibilities in building a just and equitable city.

Being a caring city is a real challenge for local and regional authorities in their search for suitable solutions for the provision of essential services, the spatial organization of their communities, and the development of a local economy able to make strong contributions to the financing of local development. In this context, considerations must not end at a city’s administrative boundaries, but rather include the urban and rural hinterlands, which are the natural extensions of a city and make essential contributions to it.

Being a caring city is critical in light of the different problems facing the world today.

Within the framework of the Metropolis Annual Meeting in Johannesburg, the issue will be addressed in six thematic sessions: food security, agile cities in developing countries, the power of the informal economy, resource resilience, engaged citizens, and social cohesion.

These six topics, which represent only a few of the elements of a caring city, will make it possible to develop the principle of “caring cities,” which will be the subject of a publication intended to serve as a basis for the considerations of Metropolis members, in particular with regard to Habitat III, to which Metropolis will contribute ideas for local decision makers and the international community.