

# Urban Thinkers Campus 8.0 - Reporting Form

After their UTC sessions, organizers should report on their UTC and provide the information below on the key results. The content below will be shared on-line by the WUC Secretariat. Please report below on the results of your Campus session. This should be done in either English, French or Spanish.

The Secretariat will post your report on the Urban Thinkers Campus webpages after review. Only completed reports will be considered.

Email \*

sikho@citypeople.durban

1. UTC Title: Title of your Urban Thinkers Campus \*

Accelerating Action & Impact for the City We Need.

2. UTC Date(s): Beginning date of your Campus \*

Please provide the date of the Campus

DD MM YYYY

29 / 06 / 2023

End date of your Campus \*

Please provide the date of the Campus

DD MM YYYY

29 / 06 / 2023

3. Location of your UTC: \*

Durban (eThekweni), South Africa

4. Lead organizer: \*

Please provide name of organization hosting the UTC

City People eThekweni

6. Other organizations that participated in the campus:

Please provide the Names, URL of partner organizations, and contact email to be associated to the Campus

7. Number of Participants: \*

50

## 9. Background and Objectives of your Campus: \*

Please explain the background and provide the list of objectives your campus aims to achieve.

The UN-Habitat New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework for creating sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities. South Africa has embraced these frameworks, incorporating them into its national and local strategic plans. Despite this, eThekweni faces socio-economic challenges and urban crises in particular homelessness which is a growing phenomenon with thousands living on the streets and in temporary shelters, impacting society and development. The New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016, emphasizes the need for inclusive and sustainable urban development to address urban challenges, including homelessness. The South African National Development Plan (NDP) also recognizes the importance of addressing homelessness in building a just and prosperous society. By bringing together stakeholders from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector, we can build inclusive, resilient, and thriving communities in eThekweni.

The key objective of the Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC 8.0): Accelerating Action & Impact for the City We Need was to foster a shared understanding among stakeholders of the UN-Habitat New Urban Agenda and SDGs, emphasizing their relevance to eThekweni's sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development goals. It also aimed to facilitate dialogue and knowledge exchange among diverse strategic partners, promoting collaboration and partnerships across sectors to identify innovative solutions for urban challenges in eThekweni during the decade of action. The event intended to showcase successful initiatives and best practices that have built thriving communities in eThekweni, fostering learning and inspiration. Additionally, it was intended to provide a networking platform to mobilize resources and support for implementing sustainable urban development initiatives with a particular focus on homelessness.

Furthermore these were the intended outcomes:

Raising awareness of the UN-Habitat New Urban Agenda, SDGs, and South African Constitution as crucial frameworks for sustainable development in eThekweni.

Fostering collaboration among diverse partners to find inclusive and innovative solutions for urban challenges in eThekweni.

Identifying approaches that accelerate action and impact for the city we need, particularly during the decade of action.

Facilitating knowledge exchange and dialogue among stakeholders to develop a robust urban knowledge network in eThekweni.

Promote youth and women's participation in sustainable urban development for inclusive and gender-responsive policies.

Increasing visibility of eThekweni's urban challenges, opportunities, and best practices to attract support and investment for sustainable socio-economic development.

## 10. Relation of your Campus to the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals \*

Please explain how the theme of your campus relates and contributes to the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs (maximum 200 words)

The programme was hosted under the theme: " Accelerating Action & Impact for the City We Need ". This aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (which aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all), including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

This UTC programme aligned with the New Urban Agenda by promoting sustainable and inclusive urban development that addresses the challenges of homelessness, poverty, and inequality, and fosters social cohesion and cultural diversity. The South African National Development Plan (NDP), is a long-term vision and strategy for sustainable development in South Africa. The programme aligned with the NDP by promoting sustainable and inclusive development that addresses the root causes of poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, and fosters social cohesion and economic growth.

Furthermore the programme also aligned with the South African Constitution, which is a supreme law that outlines the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and the duties and functions of government by promoting social justice, human dignity, equality, and non-discrimination, and by addressing the needs of vulnerable and marginalized communities, including internally displaced/homeless individuals.

Lastly the partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders, including government, civil society, academia, and the private sector, that were central to the programme's success aligned with the principles of the Decade of Action for the SDGs, which aims to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 through transformative action and collaboration at all levels.

The success of the programme relied on the commitment and participation of all stakeholders, with the intention to working together towards achieving shared objectives. Ultimately making eThekweni, Africa's most caring and liveable city by 2030.

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## 11. The City We Need Now - ACTION AREAS

- 1. Health and Well-being
- 2. Peace and Safety
- 3. Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- 4. Inclusion and Gender Equality
- 5. Economic Opportunities for All
- 6. Culture and Identity
- 7. Local Governance
- 8. Urban Planning and Design
- 9. Housing, Services and Mobility
- 10. Learning and Innovation

## 12. List of Speakers: \*

Provide name, job title and organization for each speaker and the moderator.

- Programme Moderator: Sikho Msomi: Director @ City People eThekweni.
- Prof. Hope Magidimisha-Chipungu: Professor of Town and Regional Planning & Academic Leader for Planning and Housing @ University of KwaZulu-Natal. SARChI Chair for Inclusive-Cities.
- Daniel Byamungu Dunia: Executive Director @ Africa Solidarity Network (ASONET). KZN Social Cohesion Consortium.
- Sarah Alsen: Executive Director @ Bioregional South Africa.
- Tino Makoni: Development Economist & KZN Regional Manager @ Urban-Econ Development Economists.
- Richard Dobson: Co-founder & Project Leader @ Asiye eTafuleni.
- Sikhumbuzo Mtembu: President @ South African Institute of Architects KwaZulu-Natal (SAIA KZN)
- Dr. Nomkhosi Luthuli: Senior Lecturer (Research, Economic Development) @ University of KwaZulu-Natal Graduate School of Business & Leadership.
- Nyiko Manyusa: Attorney @ Lawyers For Human Rights.

## 13. List of TOP 6 Speakers: \*

Provide name, job title and organization for each top speaker.

- Prof. Hope Magidimisha-Chipungu: Professor of Town and Regional Planning & Academic Leader for Planning and Housing @ University of KwaZulu-Natal. SARChI Chair for Inclusive-Cities.
- Richard Dobson: Co-founder & Project Leader @ Asiye eTafuleni.

#### 14. KEY RESULTS \*

Explain the results achieved during your campus, in particular how it will impact cities and communities and help implement the SDG and the New Urban Agenda.

**Shared Understanding:** The UTC programme fostered a shared understanding among stakeholders of the UN-Habitat New Urban Agenda and SDGs, emphasizing their relevance to eThekweni's sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development goals.

**Collaboration and Partnerships:** The programme successfully facilitated dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among diverse strategic partners. This resulted in the identification of inclusive and innovative solutions for urban challenges in eThekweni.

**Successful Initiatives:** The UTC programme showcased successful initiatives and best practices that have built thriving communities in eThekweni, providing valuable learning experiences and inspiring future projects.

**Youth and Women's Participation:** The programme actively promoted youth and women's participation in sustainable urban development, leading to the development of inclusive and gender-responsive policies.

**Visibility and Support:** Through the UTC programme, eThekweni's urban challenges, opportunities, and best practices gained increased visibility, attracting additional support and investment for sustainable socio-economic development.

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## 15. SOLUTIONS \*

Describe at least 4 solutions presented in your campus that demonstrate how to accelerate the SDG implementation in cities and communities. Explain WHERE (country, city, area), WHAT (what purpose), HOW (how it is achieved), WHO (by whom and for which beneficiary) and IMPACTS.

### 1. Solution: Community-led Urban Agriculture for Food Security

- Purpose: To address food insecurity and promote sustainable urban development
- How: Engaging local communities to establish and maintain urban agriculture projects
- Who: Led by grassroots organizations, in collaboration with local authorities and community members
- Impacts: Improved access to nutritious food, enhanced community resilience, and reduced environmental impact.

### 2. Solution: Inclusive and Affordable Housing Co-creation

- Purpose: To provide decent and affordable housing for all residents
- How: Engaging stakeholders through participatory processes to co-create housing solutions
- Who: Collaboration between government agencies, housing organizations, and local communities
- Impacts: Increased access to affordable housing, reduced homelessness, and strengthened social cohesion.

### 3. Solution: Youth-Led Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hubs

- Purpose: To empower youth and foster economic opportunities
- How: Establishing dedicated spaces for entrepreneurship and innovation, providing mentorship and resources
- Who: Led by youth organizations, supported by local businesses and government entities
- Impacts: Increased youth employment, enhanced creativity and innovation, and economic growth.

### 4. Solution: Smart and Sustainable Transportation Systems

- Purpose: To improve urban mobility and reduce carbon emissions
- How: Implementing intelligent transportation systems, promoting public transit, and integrating technology for efficient mobility solutions
- Who: Collaborative effort among local government, private sector, and transportation experts
- Impacts: Reduced congestion, improved air quality, and enhanced accessibility for all residents.

### 5. Solution: Data-Driven Decision Making for Sustainable Development

- Purpose: To enhance evidence-based planning and decision making
- How: Utilizing data analytics and technology to collect, analyze, and interpret relevant data for informed policy formulation and resource allocation
- Who: Collaboration between local government, academia, and data experts
- Impacts: Improved resource allocation, targeted interventions, and effective monitoring of SDG progress.

### 6. Solution: Effective and Proactive Disaster Management

- Purpose: To strengthen disaster resilience and response capabilities
- How: Implementing early warning systems, community preparedness programs, and efficient emergency response mechanisms
- Who: Collaboration between local government, emergency services, community organizations, and residents

- Impacts: Minimized loss of life and property, enhanced disaster preparedness, and increased community resilience.

#### 7. Solution: Inclusive and Non-Discriminatory Local Policies

- Purpose: To ensure fair and equitable access to services and opportunities for all residents
- How: Developing and implementing policies that prioritize inclusivity, non-discrimination, and social justice
- Who: Collaboration between local government, civil society organizations, and marginalized communities
- Impacts: Reduced inequalities, enhanced social cohesion, and improved well-being for all residents.

#### 8. Solution: Homelessness Toolkit for eThekweni

- Purpose: To address and reduce homelessness in our city
- How: Developing a comprehensive toolkit that provides practical, evidence-based strategies and interventions to support individuals experiencing homelessness
- Who: Collaboration between local government, non-profit organizations, and community stakeholders
- Impacts: Increased access to shelter, supportive services, and pathways to stable housing for homeless individuals and families.

#### 9. Solution: Repurposing Abandoned Buildings for Socio-economic Change

- Purpose: To revitalize abandoned and underutilized buildings for positive socio-economic impact
  - How: Identifying and repurposing vacant structures to serve as affordable housing, community centers, or spaces for social enterprises and entrepreneurship
  - Who: Collaboration between local government, private sector, community organizations, and residents
  - Impacts: Renewed urban spaces, increased job opportunities, and improved socio-economic conditions for the community.
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## 16. RECOMMENDATIONS - NEW URBAN AGENDA \*

RECOMMEND which areas of the New Urban Agenda should be PRIORITIZED in the next 5 years (SHORT/MEDIUM term) and 15 years (LONG term):

As an organization working closely with communities in eThekweni, South Africa, we would like to emphasize the following recommendations:

### Short/Medium Term (Next 5 years):

**Affordable Housing:** Prioritize the development and implementation of strategies that promote affordable housing solutions, considering the unique socio-economic challenges faced by developing cities. This includes exploring innovative financing models and partnerships with the private sector to increase access to decent and affordable housing.

**Inclusive Urban Planning:** Emphasize the importance of inclusive urban planning processes that engage all stakeholders, including marginalized communities, in decision-making. This will ensure that urban development initiatives address the specific needs and aspirations of the diverse population in developing cities like eThekweni.

**Sustainable Transport:** Focus on sustainable transport solutions to address congestion, improve accessibility, and reduce carbon emissions. This includes investing in public transportation infrastructure, promoting non-motorized transport options, and integrating transport planning with land-use planning to create more liveable and connected cities.

### Long Term (Next 15 years):

**Resilient Infrastructure:** Prioritize the development of resilient infrastructure systems that can withstand the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. This includes integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into infrastructure planning, upgrading informal settlements, and improving access to basic services such as water, sanitation, and electricity.

**Digital Transformation:** Recognize the transformative potential of technology and digital solutions in addressing urban challenges. Support the adoption of smart city technologies, data-driven decision-making processes, and digital inclusion initiatives to enhance service delivery, promote equitable access to information, and improve governance in developing cities.

**Sustainable Economic Development:** Foster sustainable economic development by promoting local entrepreneurship, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and creating opportunities for inclusive and decent employment. This includes investing in skills development, promoting green and circular economy practices, and strengthening partnerships between the public, private, and civil society sectors.

Prioritizing these areas in the New Urban Agenda will contribute to the sustainable and inclusive development of developing cities. We believe that by addressing these key priorities, we can create more resilient, equitable, and prosperous urban environments for all.

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## 17. STRENGTHENING - NEW URBAN AGENDA \*

EXPLAIN which areas of the New Urban Agenda should be STRENGTHENED in the next 5 years (SHORT/MEDIUM term) and 15 years (LONG term) and HOW:

As an organization working towards addressing socio-economic challenges we would like to share these recommendations:

### Short/Medium Term (Next 5 years):

**Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** Strengthen efforts to enhance capacity building initiatives and knowledge sharing platforms for urban practitioners in developing cities. This can be achieved through partnerships with academic institutions, local government bodies, and international organizations to provide training programs, workshops, and platforms for exchange of best practices.

**Participatory Governance:** Strengthen mechanisms for participatory governance and inclusive decision-making processes at the local level. This includes engaging communities, civil society organizations, and marginalized groups in urban planning and development processes, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are adequately addressed.

**Integrated Informal Human Settlements Upgrading Programs:** Strengthen informal human settlement upgrading programs by adopting an integrated approach that addresses not only housing but also access to basic services, infrastructure, and livelihood opportunities. This requires coordinated efforts between various stakeholders, including local governments, community organizations, and private sector entities, to improve living conditions in informal human settlements.

### Long Term (Next 15 years):

**Climate Resilience and Adaptation:** Strengthen efforts to build climate resilience and adaptation strategies in developing cities, including eThekweni. This involves incorporating climate change considerations into urban planning and infrastructure development, promoting sustainable building practices, and implementing nature-based solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

**Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Development:** Strengthen the integration of social, economic, and environmental dimensions in urban development processes. This can be achieved through the promotion of sustainable and inclusive urban policies, the creation of affordable housing options, the development of inclusive transportation systems, and the provision of adequate social infrastructure and public spaces.

**Financing Mechanisms:** Strengthen the availability and accessibility of financing mechanisms to support sustainable urban development in developing cities. This includes exploring innovative financing models, mobilizing public and private investments, and leveraging international funding opportunities to address the funding gaps for urban infrastructure and social development projects.

By focusing on these areas and implementing the suggested strategies, we can strengthen the New Urban Agenda and contribute to the sustainable and inclusive development. These recommendations emphasize the importance of capacity building, participatory governance, integrated informal human settlements upgrading, climate resilience, inclusive urban development, and financing mechanisms.

## 18. COMMITMENTS \*

List a set of clearly defined commitments by stakeholders involved in the proposed priority actions (individual and joined commitments).

**Commitment 1: Strengthening Partnerships:** Stakeholders committed to further strengthening partnerships across sectors and fostering collaboration to address urban challenges in eThekweni. This includes the formation of an Urban Community of Practice (CoP) to drive specific initiatives.

**Commitment 2: Capacity Building:** Stakeholders committed to investing in capacity building initiatives to enhance knowledge and skills in sustainable urban development, with a focus on marginalized communities and youth.

**Commitment 3: Resource Mobilization:** Stakeholders committed to mobilizing resources, both financial and technical, to support the implementation of sustainable urban development initiatives in eThekweni.

## 19. ACTION PLAN \*

Explain your action plan(s) to address the priority actions above

**Roadmap for the Next 12 Months:**

**Establish Urban Community of Practice (CoP):** Formation of Community of Practice focused on specific urban challenges, such as homelessness, poverty, and inequality, to develop actionable plans and initiatives.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Continued engagement with stakeholders to ensure their active involvement and commitment to the identified actions and targets.

**Policy Development:** Collaborative efforts to develop and implement inclusive and evidence-based policies that address the root causes of urban challenges in eThekweni.

**Attainable Targets:**

**Target 1: Reduce Homelessness by 5%:** Develop and implement targeted interventions to reduce homelessness in eThekweni by 5% within the next two years, ensuring access to safe and affordable housing for vulnerable populations.

**Target 2: Increase Private Sector Engagement:** Foster partnerships with the private sector to invest in sustainable urban development initiatives, particularly in areas of economic growth and job creation.

**Target 3: Enhance Data-driven Decision Making:** Improve data collection and analysis systems to facilitate evidence-based decision making and monitor progress towards the SDGs in eThekweni.

## 20. MEDIAS

Provide links to articles or stories published in relation to this UTC.

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## 21. PHOTOS

Please provide a link to pictures that best illustrate your event (preferably using Flickr, otherwise through Google or Dropbox folders)

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16BRx11o2S2sD8ezomfhJ70C5EAgSNcmN?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16BRx11o2S2sD8ezomfhJ70C5EAgSNcmN?usp=share_link)

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## 22. REPORT \*

Do You have your own UTC report ?

YES

NO

## 22. REPORT

If you have your own UTC report. Kindly share the link below

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Is5fL0riLb3yH5WTaFACXJbvnpESz3Ag?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Is5fL0riLb3yH5WTaFACXJbvnpESz3Ag?usp=share_link)

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