

SUSTAINABILITY WEEK – AFRICAN CAPITAL CITIES SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

City of Tshwane

5 – 7 June 2018

CSIR International Conference Centre

Day 1

Report by Mivan Howard

On a cool autumn morning in the City of Tshwane, delegates were welcomed to Sustainability Week with typically warm African hospitality. The City of Tshwane Gospel Choir greeted the delegation with rousing renditions that encouraged and enlivened all present. The CSIR was an efficient and organized host as always, directing delegates to a hearty breakfast and refreshments. There was a festive energy of optimism and an outlook of opportunity as the delegates arrived and began to consider sustainability on the African continent.

Programme Director Lindiwe Mazibuko officially welcomed and induced a call for “catalysis of the green economy”. She proposed that the African philosophical concept of “Ubuntu” be incorporated into environmental and sustainability issues. “Ubuntu” is a term meaning “humanity” and is often understood “I am because we are”, more philosophically; “the belief in a universal bond that connects all humanity”.

Moeketsi Mosola, City of Tshwane Manager, commended 35 of 55 African capital cities with Mayors present for their devotion to sustainable service delivery and reducing impacts and emissions. He encouraged the representatives to pledge their duty to sustainable development across the African continent.

Councillor Solly Msimanga, Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, noted that the African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum (ACCSF) is a platform for shared interest in Africa. He expressed increased optimism and praise for the attendance of 63% of African cities represented and was pleased by further representation from delegates throughout Africa. He called for leaders to become “drivers of development” on the continent. Mayor Msimanga noted that the Sustainability Forum coincided with World Environment Day, which had a theme of preventing plastic pollution. He powerfully motivated delegates, stating that “Africa must come up with African solutions to African problems” and seek to be resilient and self-reliant. The mayor proceeded to discuss the necessity of educating the youth in the promotion of care of environment and care of oneself. He mentioned the

challenge of youth and tobacco usage with potential harm to health and subsequent drug experimentation and usage. This is severely detrimental to the family structure and the fabric of society. Furthermore, the Mayor expressed thanks to the sponsors and all in attendance, along with his hopes for a fruitful and productive interaction this week.

The delegation was then addressed by the Minister of Energy, Jeff Radebe, who noted the perils of urbanization and considered the increased demand placed on services and supply due to migration into cities. The resultant pressures and potential inadequacies of services may result in poor living conditions for large populations within cities. The Minister welcomed the delegation and expressed thanks to the City of Tshwane for its responsible and responsive leadership. He mentioned the necessity of public transport that serves the city and surrounds in providing access to resources and services. This is increasingly relevant because more than half of Africans will live in cities by 2030.

The African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum event was then officially opened and inducted as a “Talanoa Dialogue” by representatives from ICLEI Africa. This is in line with the principles established by “Talanoa”; a traditional word used in Fiji and the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent discussion. The purpose is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions for the collective good.

ICLEI representatives defined guidelines and principles proposed via Talanoa Dialogues:

1. Respect each other and ideas.
2. Share constructive stories, positive.
3. No shame or discrimination.
4. No blaming.
5. Listen to others.
6. Provide feedback.
7. No criticism or degrading.

They also posed the following questions of all citizens of the African continent: “Where do we want to go? And how are we going to get there?”

Representatives from across the African continent then joined to form a series of discussion panels to address pressing issues facing African cities. The following is an overview of the discussions and findings from each panel.

Urban Management

Panellists:

- Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor, Freetown, Sierra Leone
- Pinias Rabson Mushayavanhu, Mayor, Ruwa, Zimbabwe
- Chinyeaka Christian Ohaa, Permanent Secretary, Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Abuja, Nigeria
- Moulaye Gharabbi, Advisor, Nouakchott, Mauritania
- Abel Langsi Ngwasoh, Mayor, Bafut, Cameroon
- Mr Beitelman, Mayor, Tripoli, Libya

Facilitator: Lindiwe Mazibuko

It is essential to incorporate people into the urban planning process. Climate change is an immediate threat to basic service delivery, water and sanitation. Local populations are undergoing increased urbanization and alteration is occurring in rural settings. An essential shortfall to be addressed is communication between governance and citizen, especially at a local level. Migration into urban areas and informal settlements are pressing matter that pose challenges to governance, service delivery and infrastructure. An interesting insight from Tripoli was that municipalities can cooperate together and deliver services even in the complete absence of central government. The session chair called for action in addressing issues and encouraged cohesion with communication across the continent.

City Services: Energy and Transport

Panellists:

- David Francois Marc Andre, Mayor, Victoria, Seychelles
- Sarah Sebaggala Kanyike, Deputy Mayor, Kampala, Uganda
- Kagiso Calvin Thutlwe, Mayor, Gaborone, Botswana
- Daniel Eric Clive Laurent, Mayor, Port Louis, Mauritius
- Freddy Mbonimpa, Mayor, Bujumbura, Burundi
- Amine Sadak, Deputy Mayor, Rabat, Morocco

- Alcresia Cavala, Head of Interchange Cabinet, Luanda, Angola

Facilitator: Lindiwe Mazibuko

The importance of energy provision cannot be over-emphasized. Transport is an enabling factor, linked to social well-being, while meeting the needs of variety of state holders. The question of how sustainability is being integrated into provision of services was posed.

Seychelles was asked to comment on the extent and efficiency of renewable energy uptake across Africa. The respondent told the panel that in order to promote renewable energy and encourage uptake in private and public sectors, beneficial schemes had been implemented. Essential considerations when apply renewable technologies are extent and enabling ability. Community incorporation into plans at a local level was noted. Wind farms operate at large scale with solar panels contributing to communities at small scale.

Uganda was asked how the government had partnered with the private sector. Then noted that policies conducive to private sector benefits and incorporation had been established. The government has promoted and implemented the use of biogas especially in schools. Solar energy in streetlights, LED bulbs for energy saving, and city-focused public-private partnerships are further projects.

Gaborone, Botswana was challenged by the question of solar energy challenges to the non-renewable sector. How had the shift from conventional coal-fired power stations impacted industry and individuals? The respondent highlighted the potential for solar in Africa and that power cuts had been reduced, crime decreased and security increased due to projects. He said that for all job losses in the conventional energy sector, employment and economic stimulation was offered in the renewable sector. Renewables provided increased opportunities for employment. Youth education and upliftment programmes were provided by private sector. Renewable had been shown to benefit to communities, society and economy.

Mauritius, Port Louis stated that the Mauritius Metro Express public transport rail project would be completed by 2021 and operate to reduce pollution and traffic. High population density was noted as a challenge in cities. Resultant traffic costs the economy. The rail lines are high tech and serve 100 000 people daily. Extended networks are planned for the future.

In Burundi, government policies were implemented to solve problems and this enabled private sector partnerships. The intention is to build energy centres by 2022, which would enable the state to send excess energy to neighbouring countries. Successful partnerships with U.S companies were undertaken. Community participation is essential, as everyone can benefit. A Swedish firm is assisting with collections of solid waste and transforming it into energy. Stimulation of small businesses has occurred. Schools and universities have been provided with electricity since 2017 and the aim is to be devoid of energy deficits across the country by 2022.

Angola boasted a target of hydropower energy mix at 64% by 2025. 43% energy supply is currently achieved in cities. Diesel generators are relied upon to offset deficits. Economic impact and GDP revenue has been notable. Political will-power has been driving incorporation of natural gas. Municipalities are taking action to supply and maintain energy and equipment. The state installed resource centres using butane gas. Solar panels have potential for home usage (small scale). The government vision is to develop natural and sustainable projects. Maintenance and upkeep is an ongoing challenge; this however opens an opportunity for private sector involvement and support. Dams are being developed for hydropower. Public-private partnerships being called for looking toward 2025; this creates potential for investment.

Water and Sanitation

Panellists:

- Chilando Nakalima Chitangala, Deputy Mayor, Lusaka, Zambia
- Jada Albert George Modi, Technical Advisor, Juba, South Sudan
- Muesee Kazapua, Lord Mayor, Windhoek, Namibia
- Sylvia Tabitha Muzila, Mayor, Francistown, Botswana
- Mr Manyenyeni, Mayor, Harare, Zimbabwe
- Bakinam Osman Rahama, Adviser to the Mayor, Khartoum North, Sudan

Facilitator: Lindiwe Mazibuko

The session chair contextualized the concept in the light of a rapidly urbanizing continent.

Lusaka, Zambia presented challenges in the form of high population density in cities. Current infrastructure was never intended to support such a large and dense population. Upwards of 70% of urban residents live in unplanned settlements. Large outbreaks of cholera were experienced. Emphasis was placed on supply of adequate water and sanitation services. The government expanded sewer lines and created water points for potable water. Flooding remains a challenge, causing seasonal cholera outbreaks. Government response managed to reduce severity of impacts. Public pit latrines were safely constructed. The priority is to supply flushable or pour toilets that result in reduced water usage. Leaking and unmaintained infrastructure coupled with illegal connections cause water losses of 30% before reaching users.

For Juba, access to clean drinking water remains an issue. Very little maintenance or extension of service lines has been done. An influx of citizens placed pressures on developing infrastructure. Migration remains an issue: the attraction to work opportunities and living standards drive population movement. Government, national and local entities must meet and communicate with citizens and stakeholders. PPP's require an enabling environment.

Windhoek, Namibia has been operating water reclamation schemes since 1960. The country is currently improving water supply and facilities by large programmes and development. Renewal of the old plant and construction of new plant is under way. The economic importance of water supply and sanitation services cannot be overstated.

For Francistown, Botswana, gender inequality due to inadequate sanitation services places women in danger. Safe water is provided by dams and well-established infrastructure. Informal residents required upgrading of facilities. Sewerage systems are still required and in demand.

In Harare, Zimbabwe, the water supply authority supported by a Chinese-funded project has nearly doubled water supply to communities. Sewer treatment plants are required and have received great improvement and repairs. Containing and controlling unplanned settlements is a challenge. Migration adds to demands on government and services supply. Illegal or informal water extraction occurs.

In North Khartoum, Sudan, water scarcity and disease is increasing due to climate change. Drought occurs in the dry season and floods in the rainy season. Over population, high-density living conditions and migration place pressure on supply and services. A city initially set up to serve 650 000 people now demands the support of 5 million. Research

and development into dams, mitigation of climate change and resource management are required. Remote or informal settlements often have no infrastructure. Smaller focused management units are operational and not entirely reliant on government. Citizens and consumers must be educated in terms of sustainable usage. Community committees are successfully incorporating women into problem solving. Sustainable solutions are being found. Improvement was noted but misuse of water and resource losses still occur.

Financing and Bankability

The session consisted of a panel discussion followed by reflections from financial institutions.

Panellists:

- Executive Mayor Solly Msimanga, Tshwane
- Cllr Nkosehle Madlala, Deputy Chair of Climate Change Committee of Council/Deputy Chair of Economic Development Committee of Council
- Deputy Mayor Mr Benjamin Lazaro Ndalichako, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Deputy Mayor Mrs. Wore Diaw, Dakar, Senegal
- Hastings Chikoko, C40 Africa Director

Financial institutions:

- Ms. Martha Stein-Sochas, French Development Agency
- Ms. Lisa da Silva, International Finance Corporation
- Mr. Tshepo Ntsimane, Development Bank of Southern Africa
- Mr. Kenneth Brown, Standard Bank Group
- Ms. Khensani Mnisi, ABSA

Facilitator: Dr Krish Kumar

Mayor Msimanga mentioned the pillars of transformation when considering financing a project: spatial, economic, ecological and human. Projects should show economic benefits and returns in future. In the city of Tshwane, processes are underway to update and improve water reticulation. Power stations are to be converted into renewable energy

centres. All investors and interested and affected parties stand to benefit from involvement.

Further comments and findings from respondents are recorded below:

Link between politicians and officials: It is necessary to maintain credit worthiness and clean audits in municipalities; cohesion between consumers and local government is essential; it is necessary to strictly control finances and ensure viable investment and successful borrowing potential for bonds in future.

Scaling and steering financing toward sustainability while including the private sector: the effects of climate change and urbanization have driven a shift in operations; overpopulation, waste management, flooding and disease are challenges to cities; BRT systems can serve people as public transport; roads, storm water and drainage have to be upgraded; the private sector needs to be invested in waste management practices.

Municipal investment programs funding from banks to improve infrastructure: Challenges with mobility and transport must be overcome to increase movement and efficiency of people traveling in and around the City; the idea of bonds was rejected; coastal cities are especially vulnerable to climate change with an influx of international and migrant population; the intention is to enhance infrastructure and uplift industry; resource usage and management are essential for sustainable development; resilient cities demand responsiveness to climate change; international funding also essential.

Importance of sustainable financing: Money with a plan is essential – priorities and projects must lead to meaningful outcomes and measurable change; it is necessary to apply data to develop climate action plans; national and local considerations should be integrated into plans and executions; planners should consider international obligations and climate goals (NDC and MDG).

Banks and financiers: climate challenges resonate with financing; all funding should include climate considerations; project loans and public policy loans require plans in order to access funding; cooperation between nations assists in developing city climate plans.

World banks working at local levels: Cities and investors must work together; cities are long-term projects themselves; no financing can occur without clear intention, plans and outcomes; public-private partnerships are important in ensuring successful results.

Partnerships and collaborations: municipalities must foster relationships with international organisations and government especially with banking and markets. Long-term and life-cycle maintenance and responsibilities must be prioritised.

In summary: Municipalities are not financially sustainable at present: Clean governance is essential. Leaders must think in terms of generational outcomes. Action is essential.

Adaptation to Climate Change

Panellists:

- Manuel Antonio Alulete Lopes de Araujo, Mayor, Quelimane, Mozambique
- Sunael Singh Purgus, Chairman, Pamplémousses, Mauritius
- Vincent de Paul Kayanja, Mayor, Entebbe
- Mohamed Daoudou, Mayor, Moroni, Comoros
- Jose Antonio Pires Goncalves, Director of Infrastructures & Projects, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau

Facilitator: Lindiwe Mazibuko

Coastal cities are affected by sea level rise, flooding, salination of soil and loss of arable land, and the destruction of mangrove swamps that are used for housing or farming. However this natural capital is more valuable undeveloped: it acts as a wetland, reduces erosion and prevents flooding. Overfishing and reduction of biodiversity due to usage by community are also problematic. Transformation of waste into compost could mitigate and aid food security. Nutrition is an issue in the developing world. Education of youth in the importance of environmental thinking is the way forward.

Another coastal city theme is disaster risk reduction: the maintenance of and benefits from environmental areas in this regard are becoming more widely understood. However, sudden and severe environmental incidents increasing at the same time as population displacement and migration. Tourism and local government have to take responsibility.

Ecosystem services around the African lakes are being degraded: Wetlands are being impacted by changing climatic and anthropogenic conditions; agricultural pollution, industrial waste, human wastes, land pressures and prices, and encroachment onto sensitive natural areas are exacerbating the risk.

Waste Management, Greening and Livelihoods

Panellists:

- Sickout Iguendja Nicaise, Deputy Mayor, Libreville, Gabon
- Hans Berty Margueritte, Mayor, Curepipe, Mauritius
- Davis George Mwamfupe, Lord Mayor, Dodoma, Tanzania
- Michael Omoniyi Bankole, Chief Scientific Officer, Lagos, Nigeria
- Ekeneide Lima Dos Santos, Mayor, São Tomé, São Tomé and Príncipe
- Jefferson Tamba Kojjee, Lord Mayor, Monrovia, Liberia
- Saleh Kotchi Zougoulou, 2nd Deputy Mayor, N'djamena, Chad

Facilitator: Lindiwe Mazibuko

Greening and cleaning cities is essential to our health and future. Applying reduce, reuse, recycle and incorporating civil society into processes is required.

City wide initiatives include tree planting and garden composting, greening schools and educating youth from an early level, separation at source programmes, and plastic reduction and recycling. The involvement of communities is essential for lasting change. Encouraging results continue to drive initiatives. The private sector is often not equipped to assist. Assistance and expertise are required. Uncertainty and unpredictability of climate outcomes complicate planning. Cooperation with the international community helps cities access knowledge.