

Speech Extract
Cllr Nasiphi Moya
Executive Mayor of Tshwane

09 June 2025

SPEAKING NOTES: U20 READINESS BRIEFING

Esteemed guests,
Sherpas from the Cities of Johannesburg and Tshwane,
Members of the media,
Residents of Tshwane,
And our valued partners from around the world,

On behalf of the City of Tshwane, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the heart of South Africa and to this historic occasion as we host the very first Urban 20 Sherpa Meeting and African Mayors Assembly to take place on African soil.

This is a landmark moment for our capital city. It is also a turning point in the story of how cities, and particularly African cities, are stepping forward to shape the future of our urban world.

Together with our sister city, Johannesburg, we are proud to co-host this milestone. It is the first time the Urban 20 convenes on the African continent. It comes at a time when the global context demands urgency, unity, and bold leadership.

Over the next two days, 96 U20 Sherpas will come together to draft the policy proposals that will be taken forward to the G20. This is where the real work begins. It is where cities align their voices and set out a shared vision for urban progress.

Across South Africa and around the world, cities are grappling with the interconnected challenges of climate change, inequality, and economic strain. These pressures require more than conversation. They call for coordination, commitment, and action. Today, not tomorrow.

By hosting the U20 Sherpa Meeting and the African Mayors Assembly, we are ensuring that Africa's voice is not only present, but actively shaping the G20 agenda at the highest level.

This gathering reminds us that while the issues we face are global, the most effective solutions are local. Cities are where policy meets reality. They are the drivers of innovation, the front lines of resilience, and the



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pulse of economic renewal. African cities, with all their complexity, determination and creativity, are central to building a more just and sustainable future.

Through the U20, our cities are giving rise to a new form of multilateralism. It is grounded in the lived experiences of local communities. It places people and the planet at the centre. And it connects global ambition with practical action on the ground.

For the first time, this process will take place alongside a dedicated African Mayors Assembly. This is a powerful platform for addressing our continent's specific priorities. From climate adaptation to equitable service delivery, the Assembly will ensure that Africa's urban agenda is meaningfully reflected in the final Communiqué.

In Tshwane, we are showing what this kind of leadership looks like:

- We are investing in infrastructure that builds climate resilience and supports inclusive growth.
- We are advancing pro-poor economic policies through our Economic Revitalisation Strategy.
- We are empowering the next generation, not through rhetoric, but through real and deliberate action. Tshwane is positioning itself as a centre for skills development, innovation, and opportunity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As part of this week's programme, we are proud to launch the U20 Schools Legacy Programme at Groenkloof Nature Reserve.

This initiative reflects our long-term commitment to investing in young people. It aims to equip them with the practical skills, exposure, and inspiration they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Even after the 2025 U20 cycle concludes, this programme will continue. It will provide meaningful pathways for youth into careers in business, tourism, and sustainability. These are sectors that are vital for Africa's future.



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This is the kind of legacy we are working to build. One that lasts. One that lifts. And one that leads.

As we welcome you to Tshwane, we invite you to take part not only in the formal discussions, but in experiencing the spirit of our city. We hope you will discover our history, feel our hospitality, and share in our hope.

On 14 June, we will proudly showcase some of our most iconic sites — the Union Buildings, Dinokeng Game Reserve, and Freedom Park. Each of these places tells a story about who we are and what we are working to become.

Tshwane is ready. Our infrastructure is in place. Our people are proud and prepared. And our commitment to this shared journey is unwavering.

Colleagues, the road ahead will not be easy. But in gatherings like this, we find direction. We forge partnerships. And we draw the strength needed to lead.

Let us use this moment not only to imagine the future we want, but to begin building it together.

Thank you for choosing Tshwane.

Thank you for believing in the power of cities.

And thank you for standing with Africa as we step forward to lead.

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