

MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release

Tuesday, 05 September 2017

SALGA-UCLG PRESIDENT PRESENTS HABITAT REPORT AT UN

The President of the South African Local Government Association and the United Cities and Local Governments, Mr Parks Tau, is expected to deliver the UN-Habitat Assessment Report at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States, on Tuesday, 5 September 2017.

The Report was produced by an eight-member High Level Independent Panel which was established by the UN Secretary General, Mr António Guterres, in April this year, to enhance the effectiveness of the UN-Habitat.

The Panel was led by Mr Tau and Ms Rosario Robles, the Secretary of Social Development in Mexico, who were appointed its co-Chairpersons.

The presentation, which will see UN Member States and other stakeholders get an opportunity to discuss the UN-Habitat report, will take place in the Trusteeship Council Chamber of the UN.

This is after the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments met on Monday, 4th of September 2017, to adopt a joint statement on the UN-Habitat Assessment Report.

The SALGA-UCLG President is furthermore expected to lead a delegation of the Global Taskforce representatives to an introductory meeting with the UN Secretary General. They will be raising critical matters for local and regional governments that may influence the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda. This speaks directly to the New Urban Agenda being a key tool to achieving the 2030 development agenda.

The UN-Habitat Assessment Report is proposing, among other interventions, that emphasis be placed on saving, stabilizing and then rapidly strengthening the UN-Habitat to boost its effectiveness.

It cited that this will equip the UN-Habitat for a renewed role based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted at the UN General Assembly in 2015, as well as the New Urban Agenda adopted at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in October 2016.

The Panel has further made a set of recommendations on the UN-Habitat's mandate, governance structure, partnerships and financial capacity.

The Report, which was completed and submitted to the UN last month, has since also been welcomed by the UN Secretary-General who expressed that he finds the proposed establishment of the UN Urban by the Report in line with his own proposals for the reform of the organization's development system.

Mr Tau will also be participating in an interactive panel discussion on the positioning of the UN-Habitat for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Ends

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