

**OUTCOME STATEMENT ON ACTIONS TOWARDS ENHANCING THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON SAFER CITIES**  
*Framing of issues emerging out of first day deliberations into an outcome document*

## **I. Preamble**

1. We, the mayors, having met at the United Nations, New York, from 13 to 14 March 2013, under the framework of the Steering Committee of the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC) have joined with the United Nations and other international, national and local partners and are resolved to develop and implement a global agenda for a safer and sustainable future for our people and our world.
2. We reaffirm our determination to make cities and their public spaces free from crime and violence from a gender perspective by focusing on the vulnerable and at-risk populations and improving urban planning, management and governance.
3. We are committed to integrating urban safety as a key aspect of sustainable urban development thus improving the lives of the poorest people.
4. We recognize the special challenges facing least developed countries and developing countries in accessing financial and other resources for urban safety interventions.
5. We are especially concerned about the 1.4 billion people living in extreme poverty in informal settlements who are adversely affected by crime and violence.
6. We are also committed to enhancing cooperation among mayors, local and national governments, private sector, civil society and women's organisations on evidence-based and effective approaches to urban safety so as to secure the urban advantage for all.

7. We urge decisive action in line with the World Urban Campaign towards Habitat III and the Safer Cities Programmes of UN-Habitat and the UN system. We resolve to strengthen the GNSC.
8. We reaffirm that urban safety initiatives should be community based and promote civil and human rights of the people that we serve, respecting the rule of law.

## **II. Renewing Political Commitment**

### **A. Reaffirming principles on the role of local actors in enhancing urban safety and preventing urban crime**

9. We are guided by principles of the United Nations Guidelines on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as expressed in the ECOSOC 1995/15 Principles and Approach on Preventing Urban Crime.
10. We are also committed to the declarations of mayors including the 1998 Johannesburg International Conference on Crime Prevention Partnerships, the Durban 2003 International Sustainable Safety Conference, the Monterrey 2007 International Conference on the State of Safety in World Cities, the 2012 Aubervilliers and Saint Denis Cities, Security and Democracy Forum and the 2012 WUF VI Naples Declaration on Urban Safety.

### **B. Assessing global progress in the implementation of the safer cities approach**

11. We recognize the common principles underlying the implementation of our safer cities strategies in the cities of Los Angeles, Houston, Bogota, San Salvador, Johannesburg, Treichville, Beirut and Sao Paulo in terms of social cohesion, proximity policing and recovering public spaces which provide an important

reference on lessons from practice to be made available to the international community.

12. We recognize the progress generated since the ECOSOC 1995 resolution by member states in relation to the enhanced role of local governments in preventing urban crime and reducing violence.
13. We also note that many governments, multilateral and bilateral organizations now incorporate safety issues into their national urban development frameworks, legislations, policies and institutions.
14. We recognize, however, the continued challenges associated with generating adequate resources for urban safety, implementing multi-sector and preventive approaches, and regulating the private security industry.
15. We urge governments and international stakeholders to consider, within the Post 2015 development agenda, the formulation of goals and targets that recognize the role of cities and urban development for the prevention of violence and crime, including violence against women and girls at local levels.

### **C. Engaging key stakeholders at the city level**

16. We feel that broad public participation in decision-making is a pre-requisite of achieving safety in cities, with particular attention to women, children, youth and marginalized groups.
17. We recognize the importance of local governments in preventing urban violence and crime and appreciate the role that local authority associations can play in ensuring that member states and sub-regional bodies develop and implement guidelines on safer cities and develop appropriate financing mechanisms to support urban safety programmes. We support decentralisation processes in order to strengthen actions of local

authorities as the lowest level of government to the people.

18. We encourage the participation of key stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations, women's organisations private sector and research organizations.

19. We strongly encourage business and industry to show leadership in advancing urban crime and violence prevention in the context of sustainable urban development and enhancing neighbourhood and public space improvements.

20. We urge national governments to ensure appropriate budget allocation for local authorities.

#### **D. Framework for action**

21. We recognize that cities are at the forefront of urban safety promotion and collaboration between all spheres of government is essential.

22. We encourage GNSC partners to promote the network and encourage the participation of peer cities.

23. We are committed to multi-sectoral and integrated approaches to urban safety.

24. We call for UN Guidelines on Safer Cities that encourage cities to integrate prevention in their plans and strategies.

25. We encourage the development of financial mechanisms to stimulate urban safety initiatives, including legislation, policies and programmes and to expand resources for the promotion of urban safety interventions.

26. We call for the establishment of a Trust Fund mechanism in order to support directly the local authorities in safer cities programmes.

27. We call for the creation of an international knowledge-sharing platform within the GNSC to facilitate the design, implementation, and monitoring of urban safety

strategies (e.g. tools, urban safety monitor, roster of service providers).

22. We urge the use of global and regional meetings such as the World Urban Forum (WUF) to advocate for urban safety policies and practices. We encourage the United Nations and international agencies to enhance their support to developing countries in developing urban safety strategies.
23. We call for targeted investments in relevant skill formation, technology and capacity building.
24. We support investment in information gathering and action-oriented research, including through centres of excellence.
25. We recognise the importance of measuring global progress through commonly agreed metrics and guided by a global roadmap 2013 – 2016.
26. We call on the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its 24th Session to recognize the implementation of its decision 23/14 “On sustainable urban development through safer cities policies” and the growing involvement of local authorities through the GNSC.
27. We encourage the Governing Council to demand a coordinated approach on behalf of the UN system, in particular by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme and UN Women, and invite these organizations to consider ways of strengthening their partnership with the Safer Cities Programme as part of an inter-agency collaborative framework on safer cities.
28. We encourage the Governing Council to invite ECOSOC and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to establish an interagency task team to review and present proposals for updating the 1995 “Guidelines for the Prevention of Urban Crime”. The task team should consider the recommendations presented in this regard by local authorities and in

particular by the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC), and other stakeholders.

29. We, Mayors, and international partners of the Safer Cities Programme of UN-Habitat request the UN-Habitat Executive Director, in close cooperation with the UN system, to provide a report for the next gathering of cities at the 2014 World Urban Forum in Medellin Colombia.

30. We call for the creation of awareness campaigns on urban safety in the framework of the World Urban Campaign "I am a City Changer".