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# Climate Action in Mega Cities

## City of Johannesburg hosts COP 17 side-event with C40 and Arup

**Durban, South Africa** – On 6 December 2011, the City of Johannesburg (CoJ), with C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) and global engineering consultancy Arup, will be hosting a side-event to the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) at the Local Government Pavilion to discuss climate change in megacities.

The event presents a landmark report, *Climate Action in Megacities*, which was co-developed by Arup and C40 to measure the impact and potential of cities to address climate change. Released at the C40 Mayors Summit in Sao Paulo in June 2011, it marks the first-ever comprehensive analysis of actions underway to address climate change in the world's megacities. The 40 participating C40 Cities represent 297m people, 18 percent of global GDP and 10 percent of global carbon emissions. To date, there are 4,734 climate actions currently in effect and another 1,465 under consideration, covering 11 sectors (transport, energy supply, waste, water, planning & urban land use, climate change adaptation, energy demand in buildings, ICT, food & urban agriculture, outdoor lighting, and finance & economy).

This event will summarise the findings of the report and bring together the world's leading global cities to share experiences in addressing climate change. The agenda features a roundtable discussion among global C40 City leaders: Mpho Parks Tau, Mayor of Johannesburg and event host; MMC Cllr Rosslyn Greef; MMC Cllr Rehana Moosajee; Ayfer Baykal, Mayor of Technical and Environmental Affairs, Copenhagen; Kenji Suzuki, Director for International Environment Cooperation, Urban and Global Environment Division, Tokyo; and Martha Delgado Peralta Secretary for Environment, Mexico City. They will be joined by urban sustainability practitioners: Mark Watts, Director of Energy and Climate Change, Arup, and event chair; Simon Reddy, Executive Director, C40 Cities; and Axumite Gebre, Director of Global Division, UN Habitat.

As South Africa's most populated city, climate change is high on the CoJ's agenda and the event will be an opportunity to advance the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the Bali Action Plan, agreed at COP 13 in 2007 and the Cancun Agreements reached at COP 16 last December.



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# COP 17: Climate Action in Mega Cities

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“Cities are stewards of many of our economic, environmental and social assets and have the potential to provide a framework for a low carbon economy.”

says Mpho Parks Tau, Mayor of Johannesburg.

**Damane Hlalele**, CEO of Arup in Southern Africa said, “We are delighted to partner with C40 and the City of Johannesburg at this important event. As a leading firm on urban development and climate change, we feel that it is imperative that we engage sensibly on the issue and look for responsible, realistic solutions within our cities.”

**Simon Reddy**, C40 Executive Director said, “C40 Cities around the world are at the forefront of climate action. The Arup report highlights actions already taken and the potential for cities to continue to lead the way in combating climate change”

To download the full report, go to: [http://arup.com/Publications/Climate\\_Action\\_in\\_Megacities.aspx](http://arup.com/Publications/Climate_Action_in_Megacities.aspx) or <http://c40citieslive.squarespace.com/storage/ARUP%20C40%20Baseline%20Report.pdf>.

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## About City of Johannesburg

Johannesburg has drawn up a range of important strategies to help it meet its vision of being a world-class African city. The pivotal plan is the City’s Growth and Development Strategy, which sets out the vision and mission of Johannesburg’s long-term development strategies. To read more about this and other key plans, go to:

<http://www.joburg.org.za/>

## About Arup

Arup is the creative force at the heart of many of the world’s most prominent projects in the built environment and across industry. From 90 offices in 35 countries our 10,000 planners, designers, engineers and consultants deliver innovative projects across the world with creativity and passion.

[www.arup.com](http://www.arup.com)

## About C40

C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) is an organization of large and engaged cities from around the world committed to implementing meaningful and sustainable climate-related policies locally that will help address climate change concerns globally. The current Chair is New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

[www.c40cities.org](http://www.c40cities.org)



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