



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BLUE ECONOMY
AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT**

TALKING POINTS:

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EVENTS AT THE SECOND AFRICA URBAN FORUM (AUF2)

**PREPARED FOR
HE. MOSES VILAKATI**

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Nairobi, Kenya

Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my honour to provide an update on the African Union Commission's efforts to advance urban resilience and disaster risk reduction across the continent.
2. Over the past three years, the Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP) has evolved into a flagship continental initiative, following its endorsement at the highest political level during the 2024 AU Executive Council and its formal launch at the Inaugural Africa Urban Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Today, it serves as the central framework guiding the AUC's strategic efforts to build long-term capacity for Member States to integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into urban development planning.
3. Significant progress has been made in operationalising this vision. The programme's governance structures are now firmly in place, including the Steering Committee and Technical Working Group, ensuring effective coordination across Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and partners. In parallel, the AUC has developed a continental flagship report on urban resilience in Africa, grounded in field data collected from 50 cities across all regions to support evidence-based planning and decision-making in resilience-building. This report will be officially launched tomorrow, on the second day of the second Africa Urban Forum.
4. In addition, at the request of AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities, the AUC has developed two guidelines focusing on priority sectors of water and housing. These guidelines aim to support urban resilience building through comprehensive,

replicable, demand-driven, and accessible tools for decision-makers at all levels.

5. These efforts have been complemented by the development of an AURP Implementation Plan and a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework to enhance the programme's efficient delivery.
6. A key priority for the AUC has been to translate continental frameworks into practical support for countries and cities. As a result, in collaboration with partners, the Commission has delivered targeted capacity-building initiatives, including training for city officials and Member States on participatory risk analysis, risk-informed development planning, and resilience financing.
7. At the continental level, we have strengthened policy leadership, partnerships, and coordination. The Commission continues to advance innovation and partnerships to support national and local governments with knowledge and policy guidance on risk-informed urban development.
8. Furthermore, the Commission's membership to the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure marks a significant milestone, enhancing our capacity to mobilise finance, strengthen technical cooperation, and support resilient infrastructure development across the continent.
9. The Commission is also actively bridging the gap between global finance and local resilience needs. Through our engagement in key platforms, we are promoting blended finance approaches, inclusive project pipelines, and investment-ready urban resilience initiatives to unlock both large-scale infrastructure financing and community-level solutions.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

10. These achievements demonstrate growing momentum and strong demand from Member States. However, scaling impact will require sustained investment, strengthened partnerships, and a continued focus on implementation.
11. The African Union Commission remains committed to supporting Member States in translating frameworks into tangible, locally driven resilience actions that protect lives, safeguard development gains, and ensure that Africa's cities become engines of sustainable and inclusive growth.

I thank you.