

## **Statement from C40 Cities on the death of Councillor Geoff Makhubo, Executive Mayor of Johannesburg**

The people of Johannesburg have lost a visionary leader with the death of Councillor Makhubo. South Africa and the world have lost a true champion in the global effort to tackle climate change.

Councillor Makhubo was a great friend of C40. Just last month, he launched the Johannesburg Climate Action Plan and inspired us on the need to always see climate action as a tool to address social justice. He personally ensured that Johannesburg's plan prioritised eradicating poverty and enhancing inclusivity. At his direction, a group of South African youth climate activists have contributed to the plan's development.

C40 has lost a strong voice on the topic of climate financing. As a qualified finance expert, Councillor Makhubo was a vocal champion for the need to unlock financing for climate action. This approach led to the successful roll out of green mini-grids to ensure the supply of clean, reliable, and affordable energy for informal settlements, and a world leading initiative to deliver net-zero carbon buildings in Johannesburg. Cities around the world have been inspired by the climate action underway in Johannesburg under the administration of Geoff Makhubo.

Councillor Makhubo will be sorely missed by the whole C40 family and we send our very deepest condolences to his family, all who loved him, knew him and were inspired by him.