



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CITY DIPLOMACY PAPER SERIES VOL. 1

09 MARCH 2020

City Diplomacy Paper Series Vol.1 | 141.004 | 09 March 2020

Page 1 of 6

Directors: Ms. Yolisa Kani (Board Chairperson & Non-Executive), Mr. Ashraf Adam (Non-Executive),
Ms. Nontando Ngamlana (Non-Executive), Dr. Modjadji Malahlela (Non-Executive) & Mr. Sithole Mbanga (CEO)

SACN Council Chairperson: Cllr. Xola Pakati (Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality)

Company Registration Number: 2002/031754/08 / **Non-Profit Organisation Number:** 032-488-NPO

Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Objectives.....	3
3. Scope of Work.....	4
4. Deliverables.....	5
5. Expertise Required.....	5
6. Resources & Costing.....	5
7. Criteria for Selection.....	6
8. Submissions and Enquiries.....	6

1. Introduction

The South African Cities Network (SACN) is an established network of South African cities and partners that encourages the exchange of information, experience and best practice on urban development and city management. Working together with South African cities and partners through research, knowledge sharing, peer learning and innovation, the SACN is at the forefront of efforts to achieve the urban futures vision outlined in the Integrated Urban Development Framework and the National Development Plan. The mandate of the SACN is to:

- Promote good governance and management in South African cities;
- Analyse strategic challenges facing South African cities, particularly in the context of global economic integration and national development challenges;
- Collect, collate, analyse, assess, disseminate and apply the experience of large city government in a South African context; and
- Promote shared-learning partnerships between different spheres of government to support the management of South African cities.

The International Relations Forum (IR Forum) is a joint initiative of the SACN and eight of the largest cities in South Africa. The primary purpose of the IR Forum is to engage in and develop a collective cities' agenda which clearly positions South African cities within global and national contexts and debates. The research, engagement and learning coming out of the IR Forum are meant to assist cities to adequately implement international and national urban policy frameworks by aligning their respective city strategies.

2. Objectives

The objective of this working paper series is to inform and encourage city stakeholders to engage critically and practically on the meaning of city diplomacy and translate this understanding into practice. The working papers are intended to outline and capture a set of perspectives that will form the basis for robust debate and engagement about the state of city diplomacy in South Africa, and how it can be enhanced and leveraged to advance the global interests of South African citizens.

The papers are aimed at the following audiences:

- City practitioners engaged in international relations.
- Local governments. Local city leaders including city mayors and councillors and managers in city administrations
- Provincial governments and bodies.
- National Government. Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, and relevant departments such as Trade and Industry; Environment, Forestry and Fisheries; Human Settlements; Transport, etc.
- Research and academia. To prompt and inform new research.
- Business and Civil Society. To support the work of organisations advocating for the recognition of the expanding role of cities in international relations.

3. Scope of Work

Internationally, there has been a growing recognition of the important role that city diplomacy plays in the development of nation-states. For City diplomacy to be effective it must, first and foremost, serve the core purpose and objective of local government, i.e. to improve the lives of the citizens. Van der Pluijm (2007: 6) defines city diplomacy as, “*the institutions and process through which cities engage in relations with each other at an international stage with the express aim of representing themselves and their interests to one another.*” Whereas still a developing practice, city diplomacy in its more common iteration involves such activities as city networks, sharing of experiences and best practices through dialogue and learning exchanges with counterparts, cooperation between international private and public organisations, networks of mayors and local government bodies, etc. City diplomacy is currently practised manifests itself in several key dimensions. These include (but are not limited to): development, economy, climate change/resilience initiatives, and sports, Arts and culture. It is important for city diplomacy to not be seen as competing and/or undermining diplomacy by the national government but should rather be viewed as a complementary effort to further enhance South Africa’s diplomacy, global image and influence. As city diplomacy continues to grow and mature, it will no doubt altar established diplomatic processes, therefore the goal should be to understand and harness its power to actively promote South Africa’s interests at a global stage.

The primary audience for the papers consists of urban practitioners. As such, it is anticipated that papers will draw policy and practice lessons supported by data and primary/secondary evidence. While papers will probably not be theoretical, academic rigour should not be sacrificed. Papers should bring current local and international knowledge to bear on the experience, challenges and opportunities inherent city diplomacy for South Africa. Comparative papers informed by other post-colonial contexts, middle-income countries and those with a similar urbanisation profile are welcomed.

The papers can address any of the many dimensions of city diplomacy, i.e. the dynamic between city diplomacy and national diplomacy in the South African context, city diplomacy and development, city diplomacy and the economy, city diplomacy and climate change/urban resilience, city diplomacy and placemaking, and city diplomacy and sports, arts and culture

This call presents a useful opportunity for collaboration and/or co-authorship between scholars and city practitioners, and this approach is encouraged.

The following are some suggested research questions (these are leading suggestions; authors are welcome to propose their own):

1. What is the level of cooperation and discourse between city diplomacy practitioners and those charged with managing national diplomatic activities?
2. How have constitutional intergovernmental arrangements been used to enhance/stifle this relationship?
3. How can the Department of International Relations and Cooperation use the power of city diplomacy to further enhance South Africa’s diplomacy, global image and influence?
4. City diplomacy and development: To what extent can city diplomacy be leveraged to promote the development of South African cities?
5. City diplomacy and the economy: To what extent are trade and diplomacy connected, and how can South African cities help to attract investments through their city-to-city relations with their international counterparts?
6. City diplomacy and climate change/urban resilience: How can city diplomacy better position South African cities in climate change discussions; and in formulating and implementing adaptation policies and practices that help mitigate the negative effects of climate change?
7. City diplomacy and placemaking: Examine how city diplomacy could be used as an enhancing element in a city placemaking model?

8. City diplomacy and sports, arts and culture: To what extent are sports, arts and culture important elements of city diplomacy, and to what extent can they be used to promote shared values and aspirations?

4. Deliverables

The following series of deliverables are expected:

1. Agreement with the project manager on delivery timeframes, and intermediate milestones within 1 week of confirmation of contract;
2. A first draft paper presentation to be made by May 13, 2020, including research findings, analysis, core arguments and recommendations in the form of a PowerPoint presentation accompanied by a complete first draft paper;
3. A final paper with an executive summary to be submitted by June 17, 2020. Specifications for papers are as follows:
 - a. Papers should be scholarly research, policy or review papers, written in English.
 - b. Word count should be between 7,000 and 8,000 words, excluding end-notes.
 - c. Papers to be submitted as a Word document with supporting figures and imagery supplied in high-resolution. Data for figures and tables should be provided in Excel format and clearly labelled.
 - d. The SACN Authors and Data Guide will apply, and endnotes should be used for supplementary remarks and references.

5. Expertise Required

The successful bidder/s should display relevant experience, technical expertise or capabilities concerning the following:

- Understanding of local government /city/ urban development
- Knowledge and understanding of the literature and practice of diplomacy
- Knowledge of powers and functions in South African government as defined by the Constitution and relevant legislation, South African Foreign Policy and policy documents such as the 1998 White Paper on Local Government, etc
- Understanding of South African politics
- A track-record of good, accessible communication and writing
- Ability to work to timeframes and specified outputs
- Capacity to work interactively and consultatively
- Familiarity with the South African Cities Network would be of added advantage

6. Resources & Costing

The fee for each paper has been set at R40 000. The project is expected to be mainly desk-top work. Contributors should note that a writers workshop will be held in Johannesburg at a date to be determined by the SACN. Any disbursements such as travel and subsistence for contributors outside of Gauteng to attend these events will be covered separately by the SACN.

7. Criteria for Selection

The selection of papers for inclusion in the series will be based on the strength and relevance of the proposed topic(s) and contribution to the debate on city diplomacy. Contributors should be mindful that while papers should be academically rigorous, they should also be practical and inform policy and practice for city diplomacy practitioners. Collaborations between authors / institutions are welcomed.

8. Submissions and Enquiries

Interested contributors should provide the SACN with:

1. An abstract of up to 500 words indicating the theme that you are responding to; describing the proposed paper, its methodology, and main evidence sources (e.g. prior research, work in progress, data sources, etc.).
2. Copies of authors' profiles and CVs.

Proposals (or enquiries – by 27 March 2020 only) should be sent by email to sadhna@sacities.net by close of business on 10 April 2020.

For any technical enquiries please contact Luncedo Njezula on luncedo@sacities.net.