



URBAN ACTION  
FESTIVAL 2025  
by RISE Africa

# REALISING UNBOUND POSSIBILITIES

through policy • research • creativity • practice

## Microtalks

## APPLY HERE

The RISE Africa 2025 Urban Action Festival, taking place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 25-29 May 2025, is a vibrant platform for celebrating and advancing sustainable urban development across the continent. This year's festival will host a new, dynamic element: "Microtalks" designed to amplify diverse voices, foster networking, and showcase innovative solutions in African cities.

### *What are Microtalks?*

Microtalks are a series of one-slide, 2-minute presentations that provide an opportunity for a broader range of festival attendees, beyond session hosts and keynote speakers, to share their ideas, solutions, and projects. These Microtalks offer a snapshot of practical, positive, and inspiring actions being undertaken in African cities, demonstrating that solutions are being developed and implemented locally.

### *Purpose and objective:*

The Microtalks sessions aim to:

- Hear from festival participants, including researchers, government officials, private sector representatives, entrepreneurs, community leaders, and innovators.
- Provide a platform for attendees to present projects and ideas addressing urban challenges across RISE Africa's thematic areas.
- Spark conversations and potential partnerships by exposing the audience to diverse, impactful solutions they can explore further during networking breaks.
- Emphasise the ingenuity and resilience within African cities, inspiring others with stories of locally-led solutions.

### *Link to the RISE Africa 2025 theme*

The theme of RISE Africa 2025 centers on bold, collaborative urban action to drive transformation across African cities. The festival seeks to highlight innovative and scalable solutions that tackle pressing urban challenges, from climate resilience to social equity and economic opportunity. The Microtalks sessions embody this theme by providing a platform for diverse voices to share practical, action-oriented solutions that inspire new ideas, connections and collective progress. Through these sessions, participants will demonstrate how local initiatives are addressing systemic issues in ways that are adaptable, innovative, and rooted in African contexts.

### *Participation requirements*

- Successful applicants are expected to attend the RISE Africa 2025 festival at their own expense.
- Presenters must submit a final version of their Microtalk presentation in advance.