



# Global Parliamentarians on **HABITAT**

## **The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat**

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) is an international organisation of parliamentarians who are dedicated to the sustainable development of human settlements.

The GPH was founded in 1987 in Yokohama, Japan, with the support of the United Nations agency UN-HABITAT. Its Rules of Procedure were officially adopted in 1992 in Vancouver, Canada.

## **Objectives**

The primary objective of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat is to promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Adopted by UN-HABITAT and its member states in 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey, the Habitat Agenda is a global plan of action setting out strategies for adequate, sustainable development in the area of shelter and human settlements.

## **Instruments**

Parliamentarians are representatives of the people and as such carry a special responsibility. They are also granted special powers.

On the one hand, parliamentarians pass legislation, which is in itself the most essential form of implementation of the goals of the Habitat Agenda. This is reflected in the slogan of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, which is "Good Laws for a Better Habitat".

On the other hand, parliamentarians control the budget of their country and are thus able to ensure that the necessary financial resources to achieve the objectives of the Agenda are available. In the same way, they determine which expenditures of public funds have priority.

The parliamentarians of the GPH have set themselves the goal of ensuring that governments increasingly address sustainability issues.

In addition, they intend to bring their influence to bear on decision-making processes in order to foster coordinated action by governments, communities, the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

Through the international network of parliamentarians, the goals of the Habitat Agenda are advocated in the individual national parliaments and

efforts to achieve these goals are actively encouraged.

## **Structure**

The Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat coordinates and organises the work of the GPH worldwide. The President of the GPH is the President of the Board of Directors.

He is supported in the discharge of his functions by four Vice Presidents, who are simultaneously the presidents of the regional councils by continent of the GPH. There are regional GPH groups for the continents of Africa, America, Asia and Europe.

Mr. Peter Götz, MP from Germany, has been President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat since 2008. Vice Presidents are Mr. Rodolfo G. Biazon, Senator from the Philippines, Mr. Traian Constantin Igas, MP from Romania, Mr. José Ramón Martell López, MP from Mexico, and Ms. Margaret Zziwa-Nantongo, MP at the East African Legislative Assembly.

## **Global Forums**

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat meet regularly at regional and

global forums that are organised jointly with the parliaments of the respective host countries. There they address issues associated with the sustainable development of human settlements.

Since holding their first Global Forum in Istanbul in 1996, Global Forums of the GPH have been held in the following countries:

1998 in Cancún, Mexico  
2000 in Manila, Philippines  
2003 in Berlin, Germany  
2005 in Rabat, Morocco  
2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## **Contact Details**

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