

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
GPH African Parliamentarians Chapter
November 17th, 2010,
UN-HABITAT Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya

Participants

Hon. Katoma Leexi, Member of delegation from Namibia
Hon. Phillemon Ndjambula, Member of delegation from Namibia
Hon. Adelheid Jafet, Member of delegation from Namibia
Hon. Ted Masangwi, MP Malawi
Hon. Felix Njawala, MP Malawi
Hon. Margaret Zziwa, President of the GPH Africa Chapter
Hon. Tubwita Grace, Treasurer, GPH Africa Chapter, MP Uganda
Hon. Oleny Charles Ojok, MP Uganda
Mr. Markandey Rai, Chief of the Parliamentarians Unit at UN-HABITAT
Ms. Anusuya Banerjee, Associate Social Affairs Officer at UN-HABITAT

Agenda Item 1: Opening speech by hon. Margaret Zziwa, Vice president of GPH

1. Hon. Margaret Zziwa, President of GPH Africa Chapter in her opening remarks explained the purpose and the background for calling the Board of Directors meeting. She introduced the agenda and the circumstances in which the decision was made to postpone the general meeting of African parliamentarians. She mentioned that the main reason was the poor response from African counties.

Agenda item 2: Welcome note by UN-HABITAT

2. Markandey Rai, Chief, Global Parliamentarians, welcomed the members and recalled the important role parliamentarians can play in promoting the Habitat Agenda as law makers. He highlighted the possible reasons for the poor response from the Parliaments in Africa. He further informed that the President of GPH Hon. Peter Goetz was also consulted about the poor response and it was agreed through a close consultation that the general meeting should be converted into the Board of Directors of African chapter of GPH meeting. Some of the reasons he mentioned for poor response were: bad timing due to election campaigns in many countries; the short duration of one day meeting; and lack of funding to support the participant's travel to Nairobi.

Agenda item 3: Presentation of Good Laws fro Better Governance

3. Malawi delegation shared the projects and policies related to housing and urban development from their country. Hon. Zziwa also presented a National Slum upgrading Strategy project supported by Ugandan Government. .A number of initiatives and on going projects by government of Uganda and Malawi were mentioned by their

representatives. It was agreed that the invitation letter to Speakers and parliamentarians should mention that they should bring good laws and policies that they have passed in the past years to improve the housing and human settlements conditions in their countries to present and share with other participants. Experts shall be consulted to develop criteria for selecting good laws and participating parliamentarians will also provide input to it.

The best policies and legislation will be selected from the presentation in the next Chapter meeting of African parliamentarians. These best legislations will form the content for a publication which will be used for spreading awareness and support to the World Urban Campaign as valuable contribution from the GPH Africa.

Agenda item 4: Declaration of Action Plan

4. It was agreed that parliamentarians should also learn from other groups who secure funding for travel such as youth and gender groups for their activities including travel for meetings. It was further agreed to develop a strategy for funding and UN-HABITAT was requested to help in identifying the sponsors so that African chapter of GPH may secure funding for participants
5. The Board discussed on how to create awareness across UN-HABITAT, and Habitat partners that Parliamentarians are an important group. Parliamentarians are the policy makers and they should be involved from the beginning and at all stages for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Parliamentarians serve as a watchdog on government so that they fulfill their commitments. Parliamentarians help in the creation of action plans related to government commitments, as well as help governments for follow-through on agreed plans.

In view of the above, it was agreed that parliamentarians should meet with the Executive Director soon at the next available opportunity.

A key proposal was to identify key people within each parliament (dealing with housing, infrastructure, etc.) and create working committees within National Parliaments responsible for promoting Habitat Agenda commitments. This will be proposed in the next GPH and GC meetings.

Agenda item 5. Election of Office Bearer

6. This item was postponed for the next general meeting of African Parliamentarians to be held on 12 April 2011.

Agenda item 6. Discussion on the Statute of GPH

7. It was agreed that the By-Laws of GPH should be called the Charter of Parliamentarians. "Statute" and "Bylaws" are not appropriate word. "Board of Directors" should be replaced by the Executive committee or Council. Hon. Charles and Hon. Felix agreed to provide text for the Charter of Parliamentarians

Agenda item 7. Preparation for the 7th Global Conference of GPH in Croatia

8. GPH Africa Chapter will form its common position in the next general meeting in Nairobi to be held on 12th April 2011

Agenda item 8. Preparation for the 23d Governing council of UN-HABITAT

9. The Board agreed to move an updated Resolution which was adopted during the GC22 in the upcoming GC23. It was agreed that preparation should start early on. They are aware that any resolution should be sponsored by at least a government delegation and the consultation process should start well in advance as per rules and procedure of the GC. It was suggested that Mr. Chris Mensah should be contacted for more details.

Agenda Number 9: AOB

10. In Brief the following activities were agreed upon for immediate follow up:

- a. Prepare and hold an African Chapter meeting during GC 23 (on 12th April 2011), and develop a common position for the 7th GPH Conference in Croatia in May 18-20, 2011.
- b. Work on collecting, preparing presentations of, and analyzing good laws for better governance for the next GPH African Chapter meeting.
- c. Finalizing a new Declaration and Resolution for submission to the Governing Council 23.
- d. Put together a strategy proposal for getting sustainable funding sources to support the GPH Africa Chapter.