



Global Parliamentarians on **HABITAT**

Peter Götz

Deputy of the Federal
Republic of Germany

President of the Global
Parliamentarians on Habitat

World Urban Forum V UN-Habitat



Minutes

**Round Table for Global Parliamentarians
“Climate Change and Human Settlements”**

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German Bundestag
Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin
GERMANY

Tel. +49-30-227-74928
Fax: +49-30-227-76862

peter.goetz@bundestag.de
www.goetzpeter.de

Peter Götz welcomed the over 100 participants on behalf of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH). He reported on the 6th Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat. In his speech, he stressed that climate change is an international challenge, which can be overcome only through international cooperation. The most important resource in the fight against climate change is the political will.

Anna Tibaijuka stressed the special role and responsibility of parliamentarians as representatives of their people and thanked them for their longstanding support. She asked that human needs not be ignored in any action for sustainable development in the context of climate change.

Oyeyinka Oyebanji equally emphasized the role and possibilities of parliamentarians as legislators. The promotion of renewable energies is expensive, and not to be realized without legislation and incentives.

Eliomar Coelho read from the "Declaration of Rio", which was drafted and adopted on the 6th Global Forum of GPH that took place from 18 to 20 March 2010, also in Rio de Janeiro. Among other things, the importance of sustainable urban planning in the prevention of climate change and in addressing its impacts was noted in the declaration.

Oscar López Velarde Vega presented the Declaration of the GPH Regional Council for America, which had been adopted at its regional meeting on 18 March in Rio de Janeiro. The Declaration provides, inter alia, for measures for the conservation of biodiversity and reforestation.

Saugata Roy focussed on the development of protective measures against natural disasters caused by climate change. Because of the many climate refugees, the problem should be regarded not only from the environmental perspective, but also from a social and development perspective.

Mariam Nalubega reported on the measures adopted by parliamentarians in Uganda, in order to deal with the impact of climate change on human settlements, such as laws governing the production and use of plastic bags.

Ali A. Olio said that the impacts of climate change had spread rapidly across the world in the last three decades. It is important that all nations cooperate in fighting climate change and that rich countries assist poor countries more strongly with technology and financial resources.

Yves Dauge stressed the need for measures to reduce urban inequalities in housing provision. He also stressed the

important role of collective transport and nature conservation in the fight against climate change.

Eduardo Valverde drew attention to the dangers to which the Amazon rainforest was exposed. The Brazilian government wants combat these dangers with the help of an Amazon-Fund, a social fund and through stronger and more flexible environmental legislation.

Paulo Teixeira spoke of the need to change consumption and production patterns. Clean energies and energy conservation must be encouraged. As an example he cited Brazil's "Progress and Acceleration programme" for sustainable housing.

Peter Götz thanked the panellists for their contributions and opened the debate. Amongst others, the following parliamentarians spoke:

Jefferson Praia, Senator, Member of the Committee on Environment and Climate Change, Brazil, stressed the need to facilitate control of the Amazon area through better legislation. The promotion of environmental awareness is also important.

A.K.M. Mozammel Huo, MP, Chairman of the Standing

Committee on Land, Bangladesh, spoke of the devastating effects of climate change in the form of cyclones and floods in his country.

Paulo Correa, President of the Camara Municipal do Barreta, Brazil, emphasized the important role of cities as production sites and criticized that despite their important role, they could adopt environmental laws to a very limited extent. In Brazil this type of legislation is reserved for the State.

Librado Martinez Corranza, Congreso del Estado de Michoacan, Mexico, said that pollution was a global problem and that we needed to tackle this problem together. The new generation would have to change their awareness and future generations would need to act sustainably.

Neusinha Santos, President of the Committee on Environment and Urban Affairs, Camara Municipal de Belo Horizonte, Brazil, pointed out that in Brazil 85 percent of the population lived in cities and that the parliamentarians elected by cities should therefore be particularly active in efforts to promote change.

Tubwita Grace Bagaya, MP, Uganda, underlined the importance of good water quality and urged the parliamentarians as legislators to ensure that their

constituency was well represented.

Abubakar Matazu, Chairman of the Committee on Housing and Habitat, House of Representatives, Nigeria, presented Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, as the host of the next Regional Forum of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat for Africa. As an oil producer, Nigeria suffered many environmental problems and needed a lot of support in order to address these issues.

Naokazu Takemoto, House of Representatives, Japan, stressed the importance of building standards especially for natural disasters caused by climate change.

Rodrigo de Moraes Schoeller, Manager of Strategic Projects in Public Ministry, Rio Grande del Sul, Brazil, was of the opinion that climate change is systemic and therefore needed systemic solutions. Parliamentarians must collaborate very closely in order to develop such solutions. The problem is not the legislation, but its implementation.

Rose Sales, Camara Municipal do Sao Luiz, Brazil stressed that environmental problems know no borders. Moreover, the parliamentarians are responsible for enabling vulnerable persons to gain the necessary autonomy to make their own decisions.

Marco Antonio Alves Jorge Kim, Camara Municipal do Americana, Brazil, explained that one must not only think about urban housing, but also about the social integration of the people who live there. This should include programmes that generate income with which the housing which is made available can be paid off.

Peter Götz thanked the participants for the lively discussion and the many thought-provoking comments and reiterated that parliamentarians have not the possibility, but also the responsibility and duty to create the conditions for a climate-friendly and liveable world through legislation.

13/04/2010

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Appendix: Panellists