

**WELCOME REMARKS BY, Hon. Mariam Nalubega, MP Uganda
Chair of GPH at the UN- GC 22 in Nairobi**

The Executive Director UN-Habitat

Hon. Members of Parliament, and deputies

The Coordinator of GPH

Distinguished participants

Ladies and gentlemen

I am pleased to welcome you to this meeting of the GPH here in Nairobi at the 22-GC of the UN Assembly and I wish to congratulate the UN for its well sought theme: Promoting affordable housing finance system in an urbanizing world in the face of the financial crisis and climate change which for the last two days has drawn a lot of debate by different role players, authorities and various stakeholders.

I wish to bring you special greetings from the Global President of the GPH Hon. Peter Goetz who is unable to be with us today due to his busy schedules in Berlin, but all the same he has thanked you for sparing your variable time to attend the GC-22 of UN Assembly and GPH meeting.

Global parliamentarian on Habitat is an international organization of parliamentarians founded in 1987 with the aid of UN-Habitat to promote the Habitat Agenda by influencing the processes of decision making to achieve a corroboration and coordination of both government and local government systems.

It's based on this background that I wish to convey special tribute to the **Executive Director of UN-Habitat Madam Ann Tibaijuka** for her support and good working relations with GPH and for extending invitations to us to participate in UN-Habitat activities. I also wish to thank the Coordinator for GPH, Mr. Markandey Rai for his tiresome work in ensuring that GPH realizes its objectives.

The GPH is lead by a Board of Directors with four regional chapters, i.e., the Asia, Latina America, Europe and Africa. However, the Asia and African chapters require re-organizing since they have not been active since GPH inception.

I am glad to inform you that I have been representing Africa as an acting President and Member of the board for the last two years.

Taking stock of the previous GPH meetings and participation in UN-Habitat programmes, with its commitment to implement the Habitat Agenda through legislation interventions and domestication of global and regional conventions and declarations e.g., that of Cancun, Mexico, Manila the Philippines, Berlin, Rabat, Nanjing and the intended outcomes of the 22nd GC here in Nairobi, its important that GPH continues to play its role of enforcing the Habitat Agenda through making good laws.

However, this requires a strong unified formidable force of committed legislators across the world, am hopeful that today we shall succeed in organizing the African chapter which is very instrumental in achieving the Habitat goal.

This one day meeting will enable us to identify good strategies to undertake as GPH in implementing our objectives and to fulfill our commitments as people's representatives.

The global phenomenons of the financial crisis and climate change are a test to our leadership, we need to strengthen cooperation and translate these challenges into opportunities, redirect our efforts to political determination, address capacity gaps and prioritize housing financing , climate changes and urbanization in our country programmes with clear budget support, policies and ensure timely implementation.

Let us put our heads together and move forward with the ardent urge to make the 21st century, the great century of transition that will make planet earth a better place to live.

Honorable Parliamentarians, with these few remarks, I thank you for coming and wish you fruitful deliberations.

TOGETHER WE CAN!