

WELCOME REMARKS BY HON. ZIWA MARGARET PRESIDENT GPH AFRICA ON THE OCCASION ON GPH BOARD MEETING AT THE GC23- NAIROBI.

The President Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

Hon members of the Board GPH,

Hon members of Parliament,

Dr. Markanday and UN Habitat Staff,

Participants to the GC23

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you to this important GPH forum convened alongside the GC23 here in Nairobi. First and foremost allow me to thank the UN Secretary General for allowing GPH a slot on the GC 23 program. Most importantly since we are convening for the first time here in Gigiri Nairobi since GC22; allow me to express our congratulations to the Executive Director of UN habitat for the assumption to that important office which steers the UN interests in habitat affairs in collaboration with governments; Congratulations and welcome. We also thank you for the invitation both to GC23 and to GPH. Allow me also to thank Dr. Markanday who is the coordinator of GPH activities here at the UN Habitat.

Today we convene again to assess the progress made towards improving the human settlement issues of humanity. We are concerned about the growing urbanization and the poor or unprepared and unplanned Cities making slums and poor housing the second biggest threat to the wellbeing and esteem of humanity. We have come to assess our government's commitment to the MDGs and to remind ourselves of our role as parliamentarians and legislators of the required laws to effect better lives for our people. We have come to share the best practices in our various capitals and hear successful stories of slums being

upgraded or turned into middle level homesteads without displacing the occupants. We want to look at the successful legal regimes that protect the population, that are pro-poor.

We thank the General Council for the good theme and after the intensive campaign under the other equally important bodies affiliated to UN Habitat like World Urban Forum; world leaders have become more aware of the challenges facing the globe through threats of unplanned cities; consequently realizing the need for more resources in Urban development. In other instances laws have been introduced to improve the management of the cities and in this particular respect we see more laws enacted to support the metropolitan nature of our cities.

Since we last met, the GPH board has continued to reflect on the need for good laws and in the process has also discussed on the strengthening of GPH. Some of the GPH Chapters are more vibrant than others but we are certain that today we shall lay strategies to revive those chapters which are dormant.

As Parliamentarians members of the GPH we wish to express our renewed commitment to support the Habitat Agenda and to continue ensuring that within our legislative role we pass good laws that promote better housing, better cities and better Human settlement,

I thank you.

Hon. Margaret Nantongo Zziwa.

MP EALA

President GPH Africa.