



**7<sup>th</sup> Global Forum**  
**Global Parliamentarians on Habitat**  
Zadar, Croatia, 18-20 May 2011



# Global Parliamentarians on **HABITAT**

May 2011

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**18 May 2011**

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

University, Rectors Building, Mihovila Pavlinovića bb  
Room nr. 3.6, 3rd floor  
**Zadar, Croatia**

**Peter Götz**

Deputy of the Federal  
Republic of Germany

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GOOD LAWS FOR A BETTER HABITAT

## **1. Opening of the meeting by Hon. Peter Götz, President**

The meeting was opened by Hon. Peter Götz

## **2. Message by Dr. Markandey Rai on behalf of UN-Habitat**

Dr. Rai conveyed the regards of Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos, who would regrettably be unable to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Forum. However, he confirmed his belief that sustainable urbanisation cannot happen without good laws and that he therefore considered the cooperation with the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat to be of paramount importance. He requested Dr. Rai to represent him and to convey his message in the closing session of the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Forum.

Dr. Rai emphasised that the GPH should play a greater role in the governance of UN-HABITAT.

## **3. Planning for the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat to be held from 18 to 20 May 2011 in Zadar, Croatia**

Final preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Forum were made.

Senator Pacheco kindly agreed to moderate the workshop on “Legislators as Drivers as Change” since Hon. Margaret Zziwa had given notice the day before that she would be unable to come to the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Forum due to technical difficulties.

Dr. Markandey Rai kindly agreed to join the African Forum of the GPH in order to convey to them the message and reports of Hon. Margaret Zziwa.

Dr. Rai suggested that the By-Laws of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat should be reworked into a more general Charter for Parliamentarians. He presented a draft which had been compiled by a consultant, the President of the Former Parliamentarians of the GPH Africa, Mrs Ndungu, on behalf of Hon. Margaret Zziwa.

The Board of Directors welcomed the initiative by the GPH-Africa and agreed to give the project the deep consideration the project deserved. However, the following objections were voiced:

1. The draft contained primarily changes in form, not substance. The three major changes detected were: a. A change in the name from By-Laws to Charter b. A change of the name of the Board of Directors to Executive Committee c. The stipulation that there should be two people of every national group in the Board of Directors.
2. The By-Laws are a legal instrument and should be treated as such. A Charter, on the other hand, should contain merely principles and commandments.
3. The original By-Laws are in three languages: English, French and Spanish. The current draft was only made accessible in English. It appeared that many of the contentious issues related merely to different translations.
4. The Draft was circulated only a few days before the Board Meeting and the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Forums. The By-Laws stipulate that any document to be considered must be circulated at least 60 days before the relevant meeting.

It was decided that the next steps should be the following:

1. The GPH Africa should justify the changes requested in writing.
2. Thereafter, a special committee to be named by the Board of Directors with the purpose of studying the By-Laws together with the note of the African Council with an open mind.

Dr. Rai offered the support of UN-HABITAT for this project, for example for the publication of the final document.

**4. Report by the Vice-Presidents and planning of the next Regional Forums in Africa, America, Asia and Europe**

It was decided that since the Vice-Presidents would be reporting about their activities during the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Forum the next day, this agenda item could be skipped.

**5. World Habitat Day October 2011**

**The next World Habitat Day is scheduled to take place in Mexico on 3 October 2011 in Mexico. The exact City has not yet been determined.**

It was suggested that the next Meeting of the Board should be held in Mexico at this occasion. Oscar Lopez Velarde Vega offered the hospitality of his city, Aguascalientes, for this purpose.

**6. 25th Anniversary Celebration of the GPH in 2012**

**7. 6<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum in Naples, Italy, in 2012**

**8. 8<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the GPH**

It was suggested to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GPH in conjunction with another event, such as the 6<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum or the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the GPH. Ghana had proposed hosting the festivities. The proposal was currently under discussion.

The GPH were founded in Japan in 1987. It was proposed to try and hold the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in this country also.

It was suggested that the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Forum should be held in either Africa or Asia, since the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Global Forums had been held in America and in Europe respectively.

It was also suggested that there should be host countries to fall back to in case the first country should be unable to host the conference as agreed, as had been the case in 2010 with Nigeria.

**9. AOB (Any Other Business)**

The planning of the Habitat III conference was welcomed and discussed. Currently no date nor location has been set.

**10. Summary and closure by Hon. Peter Götz, President.**

The meeting was summarised and closed by Hon. Peter Götz.