



**6<sup>th</sup> GPH**  
Global Forum of Parliamentarians on  
**HABITAT**  
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## Rio Declaration

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Since its creation, the world group of parliamentarians for Habitat has been an effective forum for an exchange of experiences regarding human settlements, habitation and sustainable development. Today, more than ever meetings of this nature are indispensable since they allow paths to meet together and coordinated on a global level concerning public policies and legislative experiences that allow for the improvement and strengthening of initiatives at the diverse national legislative and infra- national stages.

We legislators and other participants of the VI Global Forum of Parliamentarians for Habitat, meeting in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2010, are debating and reflecting on the challenges for contemporary human settlements and present to our interlocutors and Society in general, the terms and commitments taken on, synthesized in this document.

### CONSIDERATIONS

CONSIDERING that this global Forum was held in preparation of the world Group of Parliamentarians for Habitat at the World Urban Forum V, organized by UN-Habitat in the city of Rio de Janeiro between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> 2010.

INFORMING that the debates are concentrated on the reflection and the proposal of new ways of parliamentary action at different legislative stages of government, seeking to minimize the harmful causes and effects of climate change; the correction of the incongruencies and inequalities of urban-rural linkages and the strengthening of the principles and instruments of citizen participation in the formulation and implementation of public policies.

SHARING the interest for the theme of the World Global Forum "The right of the City - uniting with divided urban" and the commitment with the agreements reached during the First conference of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver in 1976 and the Habitat Conference II held in Istanbul in June 2006, as well as the Agenda Habitat that arose from the same.

RECOGNIZING that the promotion of participative democracy not only enriches the political process of Cities, but reinforces the legitimacy of the stages of formal representation of the legislative process and the effective implementation of universal public policies, constituting a valuable path for truly socio – environmental sustainability in cities, regions and rural areas.

WARNING that urban planning as well as efforts to mitigate and control climate change experienced today are indispensable factors for the development of the well-being of people.

#### DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

FIRST. We ratify the recommendations of the Istanbul Declaration on human settlements and the recommendations of the Habitat Program, approved during the conference held in Istanbul in Turkey on June 14<sup>th</sup> 1996.

SECOND. We ratify the declaration of the principles of commitment of the Global Forum of parliamentarians for Habitat, approved during the conference held in Istanbul in Turkey on June 14<sup>th</sup> 1996, complementing the meeting in Cancun in Mexico in 1998 in Manila Philippines in 2000; in Berlin Germany in 2003 and in Rabat Morocco in 2005, respectively.

THIRD. We commit ourselves to collaborating with the implementation of the United Nations program for Human Settlements, supporting the legislative and institutional implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

We highlight that the greatest challenge that parliamentarians face is to promote the institutionalization of these recommendations, with the full consideration of sovereignty of each country and the local and regional particularities in order to update the legislation that specifically regulates sustainable human settlements and adequate housing to all thereby contributing to defining and render appropriate urban and rural public policies and housing and supporting governmental institutions especially to locations. Thus, laws will be able to be complied with and respect corresponding policies with the permanent participation of civil society.

FOURTH. We will intensify our efforts to promote coherence, uniformity and relevance to national and local laws on essential questions of urban and rural human settlements and their sustainability. Regarding this aspect, the capacity of local and national authorities must be taken into consideration in approving the necessary laws and to make them effective, and when these actions have not been sufficient, we intend to develop complementary measures of support and inspection together with local, regional and national governments.

FIFTH. We will promote actions for controlling negative effects of climate change and the risks produced by them in urban and rural areas. We will strengthen preventative programs and civil protection in order to reduce risks created by natural phenomena in cities and in rural areas, as well as the preservation and recuperation of native ecosystems, still present in urban locations or surrounding and rural areas, that fulfill ecological functions of protection and or containing soil, air or water degradation.

SIXTH. We will support in each one of our countries, the implementation of measures that strengthen the United Nations programs on climate change. This support aims fundamentally to support the proposal of initiatives to reinforce programs coordinated by the United Nations on the creation of legal, financial, tax and administrative instruments to finance and implement programs that combat climate change and its negative effects.

SEVENTH. We will work for the development of indicators and concrete targets that allow the accompaniment and evaluation of public policies, notably focused on combating urban, rural and

regional inequality and in favor of strengthening the spheres of participation in the formulation of policies, plans and large projects.

EIGHTH. We will promote the legislative and administrative adaptations in our countries, to put forth actions for prevention, attention and rehabilitation for urban emergencies due to natural disasters or disasters of any other kind.

We likewise express our solidarity to our neighbouring countries Haiti and Chile for the recent natural disasters they have suffered.

NINTH. We will analyze the criteria and factors used in the definition and delimiting of urban and rural areas aiming to perfect the norms and guidelines of providing order to territory focusing on the elimination of regional disparities and socio-space segregation.

TENTH. We will continue strengthening the World Group of Parliamentarians for Habitat, as well as their continental and national kindred, realizing among others the following priorities:

- a) Identify the advance of legislative and institutional implementation of the Habitat Agenda in our region and countries;
- b) Contribute to the consolidation of mechanisms of coordination and collaboration between continental groups and the World Group;
- c) Collaborate in the execution and regulation of programs for human settlements of the United Nations, promoting necessary reforms of the laws and institutions in our regions and countries;
- d) Work in order to promote the growth of the number of members of the group and its participation through new and more efficient channels of communication between members of world and continental groups, notably making use of information technology and the implementation of permanent study groups;
- e) Promote the creation of national parliamentarians for Habitat.

ELEVENTH. The World Group of Parliamentarians for Habitat will strengthen the coordination and cooperation for the implementation and fulfillment

Approved in assembly of the VI Global Forum of Parliamentarians for Habitat in the City of Rio de Janeiro – Brazil March 20<sup>th</sup> 2010.