



Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT

Peter Götz

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Federal Republic of
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President
of the
Global Parliamentarians
on Habitat

Minutes of the Meeting

World Urban Forum 4

Round Table for Parliamentarians

“Cities and Climate Change”

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Tuesday, 4th of November 2008

2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Nanjing, China

Chair

Mr. Peter Götz, Member of the German Bundestag and President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH)

Speakers

Mr. Chen Jia Bao, Chairman of Nanjing Municipal Congress, People's Republic of China

Mr. Eloy Cantú Segovia, Senator of Mexico and Vice President of GPH, representing Latin America

Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of

India and President of UN-Habitat Governing Council 21, representing Asia

Ms. Mariam Nalubega, Member of Parliament, Uganda, representing Africa

Mr. Mohammad Saeedi Kia, Minister, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Rodolfo G. Biazon, Senator of the Philippines and Vice President of GPH, President of GPH Asia

Mr. Wang De Jun, Nanjing People's Congress, People's Republic of China

Mr. Wang Ping, People's Republic of China

The speakers each gave an overview of the problems resulting from climate change and how their country and regions were finding and implementing solutions.

Participants

Please find the list of participants attached.

Discussion

During the discussion, the role of parliamentarians in mitigating climate change was emphasised and the following suggestions were made:

- While all countries have to work together to meet the challenge of climate change, developed countries have a particular responsibility in facilitating the provision of resources for action plans of developing countries.
- Nevertheless, instead of apportioning blame, the developing countries need to look at how not to repeat the mistakes of the developed countries.
- Parliamentarians should play a pro-active role to ensure that the policies they enact are also implemented, and that adequate budgetary allocations are made.

- All parliamentarians should use their oversight role to ensure that resources are used for their intended purpose.
- Parliamentarians should collaborate regionally as countries are interlinked through trans-boundary water resources and eco-systems, and food security concerns.
- International and regional frameworks, such as the Kyoto protocol, should be adopted.
- Actions against the consequences of climate change should include preparatory measures such as relocation and flood control
- The need to reduce energy demand in cities in the areas of transportation (increase of mass transportation), housing (Better technology of construction) and density was addressed.
- Parliamentarians can create the necessary institutions to combat climate change through laws.

The parliamentarians criticized that the president of the GPH had not been on the list of speakers during the plenary opening. This issue was discussed in detail in the GPH-meeting following the Round Table.

Hon. Götz thanked all participating Parliamentarians and Markandey Rai, Coordinator Global Parliamentarians, UN-Habitat, for his valuable support in preparation for, and in the course of, the World Urban Forum.

It was suggested that industrialised and developing countries need to meet more often in order to find a way how to combat climate change together.