



# Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT

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Minutes

## GPH Meeting

**Tuesday, 4th November 2008**

**5p.m.-7p.m.**

**Nanjing, China**

After the Round Table for Parliamentarians organised by UN-Habitat, the GPH Board of Directors convened a GPH meeting.

The following board members and assistants were present:

**Hon. Peter Götz**, President of the GPH and representative of GPH Europe  
**Senator Eloy Cantú Segovia**, Vice-President GPH and President GPH Americas

**Senator Rodolfo Biazon**, Vice-President GPH and President of GPH Asia

**Hon. Mariam Nalubega**, representative of GPH Africa

**Ms. Marianne Latesse**, Head of Regional Office – Eastern Africa, EUWEPA (Association of European Parliamentarians in Africa)

**Ms. Carmen Razon-Arceño**, Director-General, Office of International Relations and Protocol

**Dr. Markandey Rai**, Coordinator GPH, UN-Habitat

**Ms. Birte Leinius**, General Secretary GPH

The role of the GPH was explained to the participating parliamentarians. A discussion ensued resulting in the following suggestions and decisions:

## **1. Membership**

The question of membership was discussed. It was agreed that it was probably best if membership with GPH remained individual, and not linked to a position, such as being head of the Committee for housing, since this was no guarantee for personal interest. Besides, not all parliaments have a committee dedicated to habitat.

It was also suggested that parliamentarians organise a separate forum on habitat within their parliament, as this should contribute to sustainability of the GPH.

In contrast, the leadership of the committees changes often.

Members should have a personal interest in habitat. Ideally, they should have a strong influence within their parliament.

A mix between institutional position and personal interest would probably be ideal. In the end, every country will have to decide on their own how to define membership.

## **2. Regional Leadership**

Africa and Asia urgently need new presidents. It was decided that regional meetings for Africa and Asia be organised in order to discuss this issue.

It was suggested that because of the great diversity of Asia, it would make sense to try and organise a sub-regional structure, where each sub-region has its own head.

## **3. By-laws**

The current by-laws and constitution were deemed too detailed. It was suggested that the general secretariat provide the regional heads with a proposal for the new by-laws. These should be in the form of general guidelines.

The by-laws should contain a proposal of the future structure of the GPH.

The regional heads would then send the by-laws to their parliamentarians for discussion. A pre-meeting of the regional heads should then take place before the new by-laws are presented and voted on at the next regional meeting.

This is only possible if all regions have heads.

## **4. Institutionalisation of the GPH**

As a first step towards institutionalisation, it was agreed that the general secretariat should look into the registration of GPH. This will make it easier to fund the meetings of the regional chapters.

Thereafter, the structure and goal of GPH can be defined.

The relationship between GPH and UN-Habitat needs to be more clearly defined. UN-Habitat should support those parliamentary bodies with which it has chosen to work with.

## **5. Resolutions**

1. In order to become a strong organisation, the GPH first need a Board of Directors for every region.
2. Then the new by-laws can be voted upon

3. The possibility of registering the GPH will be looked into by the General Secretariat.
4. The next meeting of the Board of Directors should take place soon in order to prepare the next General Assembly.

## **GPH Africa Meeting**

During the GPH Africa meeting, it was suggested that the next GPH Africa meeting, at which the new leadership should be elected, should take place in the country which has the finances to organise such a meeting. The parliamentarians from Nigeria offered to take on this responsibility. The date of the meeting should be early in 2009.

Nigeria also offered to take over the regional leadership.

It was decided that Hon. Mariam Nalubega, in view of her experience in working with the GPH, should prepare the next meeting of the African Chapter of the GPH together with the Nigerian parliamentarians.

## **GPH Asia Meeting**

It was suggested that Asia should try and organise a sub-regional structure, where each sub-region has its own head. The heads of the sub-regions can then vote on the new president.