



Global Parliamentarians on **HABITAT**

May 2011

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Deputy of the Federal
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President of the Global
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Minutes



7th Global Forum
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Zadar, Croatia, 18-20 May 2011



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Wednesday, 18 May 2011

On Wednesday, 18 May 2011, the 7th Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat was opened by the following persons:

- **S.E. Luka Bebić**, President of the Croatian Parliament (Hrvatski sabor)
- **Hon. Peter Götz**, Member of the German Parliament (Bundestag) and President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

Hon. Jerko Rošin, Member of the Croatian Parliament (Hrvatski sabor) and President of the European Council of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat announced the speakers.

Prof. Miljenko Domijan, Main Conservator at the Ministry of Culture, Croatia, presented the City of Zadar and Croatia to the participants.

The opening ceremony was followed by a Reception at which the participants received a first opportunity to get to know each other.

Thursday, 19 May 2011

1. Welcome

Hon. Peter Götz, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat opened the 7th Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and welcomed all the parliamentarians to Zadar.

The agenda of the Forum was unanimously adopted by the participants.

Hon. Jerko Rošin, President of the European Council of the Global Parliamentarians on was chosen to chair the Board of the day. He was assisted in his function by the other members of the Board, namely **Hon. Peter Götz**, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, **Senator Ricardo Fidel Pacheco Rodriguez**, President of the GPH Americas, **Mr. Ronald Kiandee**, President of the GPH Asia, **Mr. Alhatih Mohamed Saeed**, Vice-President of the GPH Africa and **Oscar López Velarde Vega**, Alternate President of the Advisory Council of the GPH.

Mr. Dražen Grgurović, Deputy Mayor of the City of Zadar which hosted of the forum welcomed the participants to his City and presented the visions for the future development of Zadar and the University of Zadar.

Prof. Dr. Ante Uglešić, Rector of the Zadar University at which location the Forum was held, welcomed the parliamentarians to his University.

2. Reports

The regional Presidents of the GPH reported on the activities in their regions.

In the morning of the 18th of May 2011, Regional Forums of the GPH Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe were held. Elections of a new Board of Directors were held both in the Asian and European Forums. **Mr. Ronald Kiandee**, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia, was elected President for Asia and **Hon. Jerko Rošin**, Member of Parliament from Croatia, was elected President for Europe.

3. Workshops

The workshops were introduced by:

- **Hon. Luka Denona**, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Committee for Spatial Development and Construction of the Croatian Parliament, Zagreb, Croatia
- **Mrs. Nike Sudarević**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, Zagreb, Croatia

The participants were then asked to join the debate in one of two workshops.

3.1. Workshop 1: Legislators as Drivers of Change

This workshop was moderated by **Senator Ricardo Fidel Pacheco Rodríguez**, President of the GPH Americas.

The workshop was introduced by the expert **Prof. Luigi Fusco Girard** of the Università degli studi di Napoli Federico II, Naples, Italy.

The panel discussion was led by:

- **Prof. Petar Filipić**, Faculty of Economy, Split, Croatia
- **Ms. Maja Markovčić Kostelac, Acting Director**, Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, Zagreb, Croatia
- **Dr. Alexander Röder**, International Expert in Climate Change and Sustainability, Germany and Croatia
- **Dr. Markandey Rai**, Chief, Global Parliamentarians & Trade Unions UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, Kenya

In the ensuing discussion, the following remarks were made:

- Law-making needs to be approached multi-disciplinary way. In order to draft good laws, we should not focus only on economic aspects, but on civic and cultural factors. This can be achieved by increasing the participation in the law-making process. This will result in better and more inclusive laws.
- In practice, by focussing only on economic aspects, social issues are not addressed. This leads to inequalities such as the creation of slums. We need political intervention.
- Housing is a fundamental right. Besides four walls and a roof over ones head, it should include things such as electricity, water and sanitation. Parliamentarians should work hard towards providing this to their people.
- Good laws should focus on improving the lives of especially the marginalised people, such as slum dwellers.
- We need realistic laws that are easy to implement. We need to follow up on whether these laws are implemented. We need to talk less and do more.
- We should make laws that are implementable everywhere. We need a globally implementable legislation.
- We must share our legislations for best governance. We will only achieve sustainability if we combine our knowledge.

- We should experiment in pilot projects to assess what works and we should share the results.
- The GPH have an important role to play in UN-HABITAT. We believe that the GPH should be invited to participate in the management and governance of UN-HABITAT.
- To achieve all these goals, a strong political will is required.

3.2. Workshop 2: Coastal Cities and Climate Change

This workshop was moderated by **Hon. Jerko Rošin**, President of the GPH Europe.

The workshop was introduced by the expert **Mr. Stjepo Butijer**, President of the Spatial Planning Council of Croatia.

The panel discussion was led by:

- **Prof. Miljenko Domijan**, Main Conservator at the Ministry of Culture, Zagreb, Croatia
- **Mr. Ivica Trumbić**, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Croatia/Greece
- **Mr. Pablo Vaggione**, International Urban Development Consultant, Madrid, Spain
- **Prof. Eugenie L. Birch**, Lawrence C. Nussdorf Professor, Pennsylvania, USA

In the intense discussion which followed, the following points were emphasized:

- Parliamentarians are aware that the rise of the sea level is one of the most severe climatic problems of today. This problem will be even worse in our near future unless we act. Rise of the sea level is one of the burning issues which coastal areas must face. It is critical that effective mitigating measures for resolving this problem are found.
- Problems of climate change should be answered both on national as well on local level. We emphasize that local level has a key role in dealing with climate change. In addition, it is necessary to create synergies between the different levels of governance.
- Historical continuity of urbanism and urban culture as a framework for present and future actions is extremely important in some cases.
- Definition of coastal cities, one that identifies key elements which distinction coastal cities from others, has not yet been found. Therefore, it would be beneficial to continue this discussion in the future.
- On the issue of big cities, it is clear that they generate big problems, but big cities have also got the capacity to solve them.
- We must emphasize that mechanisms of the past are not suitable for solving present, let alone future problems. Parliamentarians should seek new mechanism adapt for the 21st century and they should embrace the integrated approach
- Cooperation between parliamentarians, public sector and universities is crucial in order to respond to problems of climate change.
- Problems of small, closed seas are not quite the same as the problems of open seas, but our common ecological problem is the evident rise of the sea level.
- All of us should be aware and take measures in order to deal with ecologically induced migrations.

- GPH can act as a driver behind good initiatives at parliaments of respective countries; however parliamentarians should be prepared to face the objective financial and technological obstacles as they try to launch some initiatives.
- Architectural norms are highly important for the preservation of different spaces.
- Many coastal areas are endangered not only by the activities happening on the sea, but by the activities which take place in the hinterlands too.
- Children need to be educated about ecological problems at an early age, in their schools, in order to raise their awareness about the environmental issues. Older generations should be mentors and guide the younger ones, in that respect.
- One of the ways to implement the principles of Habitat Agenda is to set up national bodies which can provide logistical support to the work of GPH in respective countries. Such bodies, as in the case of Croatia, might as well be associated with the Chambers of Architects and/or Associations of Architects.
- 27 principles have been adopted in the previous Declaration of Rio de Janeiro. Parliamentarians recall and acknowledge these principles.

After the workshops, the Draft Declaration of Zadar was discussed.

Friday, 20 May 2011

1. Zadar Declaration

The Draft Declaration of Zadar was discussed by the participants.

The Delegation of Iran, including **Hons. Seyed Mohammed Kazem Hejazi** and **Eng. Abolghasem Rahmani**, expressed the wish to include a paragraph with the following wording in the Zadar Declaration:

“We support the Palestinians, just like any other nation, for having and enjoying the housing and living in their own lands and the destruction of their homes is against social and biological rights determined and acknowledged by GPH”.

This proposal was rejected by the members of the GPH as well as the Board of Directors of the GPH. The Forums of the GPH are to be used in order to develop solutions to pressing urban problems. They are not an arena for extraneous political battles.

It was agreed to make a note of this proposal in the minutes of the Global Forum.

It was agreed that the Minutes of the Workshops should be included in the Declaration as an addendum.

The Declaration of Zadar was unanimously adopted.

2. Closing

Dr. Markandey Rai, Chief, Global Parliamentarians and Trade Unions, UN-HABITAT, held a speech on behalf of Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, who had been forced to cancel his participation at short notice due to other urgent commitments.

In his closing words, **Hon. Peter Götz**, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat thanked the hosts of the 7th Global Forum, namely the Croatian Parliament, the City of Zadar and the University of Zadar for their generous hospitality and for the organisation of the conference.

After a family photo in front of the main entrance of the historical University of Zadar, the participants were invited by the Mayor of the City of Zadar, **Mr. Zvonimir Vrančić**, to celebrate the successful conclusion of the 7th Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat with a joint lunch.