

Hon. Goetz peter, President GPH,

The alternative Presidents for,

Europe, Hon.

Asia, Hon.

Latin America,

Africa, Hon. Margret Zziwa

Hon. Kumari Selja minister of housing-India

GPH Board members,

Hon. Ministers present,

Hon. Members of parliament,

GPH-Coordinator Dr. Markandey Rai

Distinguished participants

Ladies and gentlemen,

I take this singular honor and privilege to address you distinguished parliamentarians .I would like to thank our President Hon. Goetz and the GPH Board members and UN-HABITAT for organizing this roundtable and also thank you colleagues and Ministers for accepting to attend.

First I would like to acknowledge and commend UN-HABITA for the well thought up theme for this year's WUF6 "the Urban Future" here in a magnificent City of Naples -Italy.

As Parliamentarians, this theme draws and is calling for our attention on several actions, strategies and plans that our Countries require improving their abilities to assume full ownership of National Development Policies and Pogrammes. We speak on behalf of the poor and the vulnerable groups and therefore we can ensure that theses plans are informed by the real priorities on the ground by adopting the requisite Legislation approve Budgets allocations and exercise our oversight role over our government Expenditures.

The 21st Century is witnessing Urbaninization at an unprecedented rate. New action are rising to meet the demand of expanding Population, seeking a high quality of life, just as City builders worldwide begin to realize the stark ramification of reproducing outdated Urban models on global scale. The question is; how do we meet the resources of doing better for more people,

using fewer resources? Recent trends in digital technology may offer some clues towards harnessing our Cities' potential as the new Engines of sustainable growth.

Cities are the growth drivers of the future yet also account for the biggest share of CO₂ emissions, Cities are the living space for the 21st Century and beyond. In its state of world's Cities' 2008/2009" report, UN-HABITAT created a new category of definition, the harmonious City. This was aimed at broadening the concept of sustainability to encompass factors such as a functioning administration, legal security and social cohesion, just as ecological and economic sustainability.

Cities thus are the engines of growth and will be critical to the economic recovery of many Nations. Uganda, for example, with an estimated Population of over 34.3 million people, is one of the developing Countries that are experiencing rapid urbanization estimated at an annual growth rate of 5.5%; and whose urbanization has spurred economic growth. Kampala City has remained a growing City since 1969, growing at annual rate of 5.61%. With this growth rate, Kampala City now absorbs 40% of the National urban Population and 4.9% of the National Population (UBOS, 2002). Kampala's growth and development is characterized by the sprawl into hitherto rural areas engulfing formerly satellite towns within a radius of 32 kilometers. The urbanized area has become metropolitan spanning approximately 386 square kilometers.

This growth, just like the growth and development of cities in other African countries, is largely influenced by rural-urban migration. The population increase in Kampala metropolitan area has led to increased demand for employment, land for housing, social services and infrastructure, which have stimulated spatial urban development and industrialization. The current urban development has led to increase in employment opportunities, housing stock, social services and expanding infrastructure.

The skyline and Central Business District of Kampala has (CBD) been transformed through the construction of new shopping arcades, hotels, apartments, office blocks, modifying and renovating the old buildings. Outside the CBD, high rise commercial and residential buildings are on the increase. Slums which used to be found close to the CBD are disappearing very fast. Industrialization has increased in Kampala, as in other cities in the developing world, largely due to the liberal investment policies and other macro-economic policies of the governments. These cities and their environs have attracted industrial investments, due to a general existence of infrastructure for industrialization; and in Uganda's case, due to government policies of establishment of industrial estates.

These industrial areas accommodate 93% of Uganda's formal industries and employ 66% of Uganda's industrial labour force. Since 1991, Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) has licensed a total of over 1,561 industrial businesses of more than 15 categories including manufacturing, advertisement, leather tanning, food processing, beverage companies and industries dealing in petrol-chemical products. Practically all Kampala's markets attract a range of informal artisanal industries, which are located either within, or around them.

These industries are contributing to direct and indirect employment. A total of 1,500 planned employment opportunities were expected to be generated by the licensed industries last year. This level of employment generation implies better opportunities for the labor in Kampala, and it underscores the vital role cities play in spurring national economic growth.

Worldwide today, cities are responsible for over 75% of the energy use and produce more than 80% of the all green house gas emissions mostly CO₂. The Communiqué issued by the G20 Countries at the 2009 Summit describes a fundamental change as the “transition toward clean, innovative resource-efficient, low carbon technology and Infrastructure’ being driven by two factors thus: Climate change and Economic crisis, as we all understand and have no doubt that human activity is causing global warming, and research tell us that temperatures will rise more than 9 degrees by the end of this Century and THEREFORE ,Global action need to be taken to avoid a catastrophic consequence which has intensified and accelerated a lot of debate leading to a new global consensus that Sustainable Growth is not just an Ecological, but equally an Economic and Social issue.

The People in City -with their Aspirations, Needs, Visions-rely on us (Parliamentarians) to make the right decisions of making the Cities Competitive and good places to live. Cities have been turned into living organism; to thrive, these organisms require a healthy balance, best expressed by the word Sustainability.

Hon. Members, to me Sustainable growth rests on four pillars; Competitiveness, Environment, Quality of life and Good governance as an overarching principle. The key challenge is to translate these principles into cost -efficient, feasible and suitable solutions to enhance Cities’ capacities to be Engines of Sustainable growth.

What is our current situation in our Cities?

The existence or absence of conditions necessary for this urban economic growth to be sustainable

It’s not enough for our cities to become engines of economic growth. This growth must be sustainable. Unfortunately, urban economic growth in a number of developing countries, such as Uganda, is not appropriately balancing issues of economy, equity and ecology. The growth and expansion of cities like Kampala has been associated with lack of adequate infrastructure, social services and pose planning and environment problems. It falls short of some of the conditions necessary for sustainable urban economic growth, in the following, amongst other ways:

Growth has not benefitted all citizens: Sustainable urban economic growth should benefit all citizens alike, for example by enabling them to earn a decent living. However, this has not been

the case in some countries. According to Pelling 2007, the swift growth in urban population as well as size of many cities has at last forced people to recognize the shortcomings of established practices and values that dominate city planning. These practices with time, have led to an accumulation of inequality, marginalization and disaster risk, especially for the urban poor.¹

In the case of Uganda, although the current urban development has led to increase in employment opportunities, housing stock, social services and expanding infrastructure, the employment opportunities created are far below the demand. Many, especially the youth, remain unabsorbed and poor. Urban population growth associated with migration for economic gains has created a large group of job seekers in Kampala metro area. They cannot be absorbed by the narrow formal sector as most of them are untrained, and illiterate. Most have joined the ever expanding informal sector production and trade either as self-employed or employees while many engage in odd illegal activities such as drug trafficking, robbery, pick-pocketing and prostitution for a living.

Although slums that used to be found close to the CBD are disappearing very fast, they are re-emerging at the periphery, and they continue to house the majority of the urban population. It is common practice among the “urban poor” to settle outside the control of official land building regulators, as land prices in cities are generally higher than in the countryside. Such areas are usually overcrowded, with no proper physical planning resulting in the blockage of drainage channels and making them prone to floods, fires and storms.² The living environment of the urban poor in such slum areas are characterized by the following, amongst other conditions:

- ◆ Dump houses, as they are constructed in water logged areas.
- ◆ Retarded developments, as it is not possible to carry out road Construction since houses are constructed in road reserves making the areas inaccessible.
- ◆ There is increase in water borne diseases like cholera.
- ◆ Drainage channels and pit latrines are a source of contamination of Spring/underground water sources.
- ◆ Lack of proper road networks in informal neighborhoods.

Inadequate housing: Although there has been a general increase in housing stock in the last fifteen years in cities like Kampala, the existing housing stock continues to deteriorate, due to lack of proper maintenance. This has contributed to the general shortage of housing. Urban dwellers mostly of low-income levels are faced with the problem of locating and acquiring suitable, affordable and satisfactory accommodation provided with social amenities. Scarcity of habitable shelter has assumed staggering dimensions, as occupancy rate is about 1.3 indicating

a backlog of 30%. The supply of housing for the low-income households has not kept pace with the urban growth and the needs of the people.

Though the private sector is very active in the housing sector, most of their activities are informal, with some developers trying to bypass bureaucratic official planning, building regulations and standards and the complex/costly procedures. The high levels of informal housing indicate that the informal land and housing markets do not provide affordable land and housing; which forces households to occupy land informally and sometimes illegally and developing it illegally, leading to insecure tenure.

These settlements have high densities, few access roads and other urban infrastructure and do not conform to existing planning and building regulations. In Uganda, the informal sector has no access to formal housing finance mechanisms. The informal construction industry is not capable of meeting the ever increasing demand for housing. Housing production capacity in Kampala and Uganda in general, is limited and poorly organized and the demand will continue to exceed the supply. All this has negative implications for sustainable urban development and the environment.

Unplanned Developments: One of the necessary conditions for urban economic growth to be sustainable is that it should be planned. Despite the existence of planning schemes, cities, such as Kampala, continue to experience unplanned developments, where activities such as residential housing, commercial and industrial use are located outside the planned areas. Since the 1990s, Kampala has been experiencing rapid unplanned housing construction.

Many of the houses, especially those constructed by low income people are near drainage channels with no proper sanitation facilities. Both the number of slum dwellers and the area covered are on the increase and this is posing an environmental and planning challenge for the urban authorities. This has resulted from failure to enforce strict urban planning regulations. Despite the physical planning by-laws and regulations that have been in place for a long time, it has not shaped the people's living environment.

Depletion of natural resources: Though growth in industrial activity indicates development opportunities, it has had serious environmental consequences including wetland degradation, deposition of solid and toxic wastes in the wetlands and drainage channels.

Cities, such as Kampala, are faced with environmental problems that are putting pressure on the existing infrastructure, while the poor settlements are beset with environmental burdens that are deteriorating the well-being of the dwellers. As the environment deteriorates, so is the increase in poverty due to reliance by the urban poor on natural resources through urban agriculture, natural resource extraction, informal production and trade as coping strategies.

In Uganda, although the current urban development can be applauded due to increase in employment opportunities, housing stock, social services and expanding infrastructure, such development is occurring in a rather haphazard manner, being largely dominated by the urban

informal sector. This has greatly contributed to the unsustainable utilization of natural resources within the metropolitan area, resulting in environmental degradation through:

Water pollution and sanitation: Water is by no doubt essential for life and health. Therefore the quality and quantity consumed are significant conditions for sustainable urban development and the well-being of the urban population. In Uganda, according to estimates from the National Water and Sewerage Cooperation (NWSC), 55% of Kampala's population has access to piped water, while only 8% has running water in their houses.

Water supply and sewage disposal, which are important in influencing sanitary conditions of an area are inappropriately distributed and poorly managed in cities such as Kampala. The distribution of sewage and toilet facilities in Kampala, for example, is uneven and varies in quality and cleanliness. The majority of the households (83%) use pit latrines and only 6% have water borne toilets in their houses, 2% have no toilets, 14% have no bath rooms, 60% and 12% share outside and inside bathrooms respectively, while 11% use unshared outside bathrooms

Most Metropolitan areas are facing a host of environmental problems, from air pollutions, to wastewater management and green space degradation and congestion. Sustainable Urban growth promotes greater use of alternative energy sources and more energy efficient buildings and transport, measures that reduce congestion and CO2 emission, recycling of water and waste and use of vegetation to filter pollution and capture carbon dioxide.

What do our cities need?

To attract investments, to be competitive, Cities need modern, efficient infrastructure, abundant skilled labour, modern ITs and Communication Technology, access to quality housing, education as well as basic services such as water and electricity.

What is our role as Parliamentarians?

As well states by the previous speakers, Parliamentarians have a key role to play especially passing legislation, budget control, expenditure priorities and influencing decision making process and demanding accountability.

As representatives of the people, Parliamentarians can play a great role in helping to generate growth in cities while also pursuing the goals of sustainable development. Their primary roles are those of legislation, oversight and representation. Legislation is about passing the laws which constitute a country's legal framework. Oversight is about keeping an eye on the activities of the executive, and holding the executive to account on behalf of citizens.

A particularly important element of oversight concerns the budget; checking that spending decisions are in line with national priorities. Representation is about collecting, aggregating and expressing the concerns, opinions and preferences of citizen-voters.

Parliamentarians are the representatives of the people and they have an in-depth understanding of their problems. Parliamentarians have the mandate and are in a good position to influence governments' national policies and budgets. They can also help secure government funding for urban development projects that tackle urban poverty.

To ensure sustainable growth, economic restructuring and harmonious cities towards a Global green growth,

1. Parliaments should implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements), protocols like the KYOTO, Resolutions especially, Resolution 55/5 on Sustainable development of Habitat 11 passed in 1996 in Istanbul. This can be done through passing appropriate Laws and regulations, ratification of treaties and prompting good governance and over see the enforcement of such Laws and compliance including monitoring government efforts to implement the agreed principles both at local and international levels.
2. Parliamentarians can boast macroeconomic stability by promoting legal and regulatory reforms to encourage productive and sustainable private investments, necessary to boast growth and create jobs in their countries (this is commonly referred to as private sector management)
3. Members of Parliament can track progress and gather both successes achieved and obstacles met by Countries /Parliament and seek to discuss further an action plan which can be reviewed by all Parliamentary Networks such as GPH, Global Action, IPU CPA and others.

Parliaments have an important role to play in delivering governance which is good for poverty reduction and democracy. As one of the actors in ensuring sustainable development, there a number of ways through which Parliaments can help generate growth in cities and at the same time integrate sustainable development in executing their legislative, oversight and representation mandates. These include but not limited to the following;

- Adopting legislations that support policies and measures aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and at increasing women's access to agricultural resources, education and training, family planning and maternity health services, labour markets, technologies, micro credits, finance and other facilities, since women's empowerment is key to poverty eradication and sustainability.

- Developing and harmonizing legislation for strict and adequate standards on the manufacture and use of fertilizers, pesticides and biotechnology products.
- Initiating or strengthening legislative mechanism for sustainable forest management and prohibiting any form of exploitation that does not conform to terms of reference that impose reforestation and reconstitution of forested areas.
- Spearheading reform of environmental and natural resource legislation in the context of sustainable development.
- Providing increasingly effective budget oversight and asserting themselves in ensuring better sustainable development.
- Engaging all actors, including local and regional governments, civil society and private sector partners, in the planning and implementation of policies.
- Supporting and encouraging rural development policies.
- Urging governments to create the requisite conditions and provide opportunities and resources for the most vulnerable farmers to have access to land, increase their food production, participate in knowledge sharing, have access to education and enjoy rising living standards.
- Advocating environmental awareness and educating their electorates on measures and coordinated action against environmental degradation.
- Ensuring the integration of economic, environmental and social goals within the mandate of existing institutions through longer-term budgeting and existence of sound regulatory instruments.

Other steps Parliaments can take:

Parliamentarians can ensure that governments take other important steps to support and empower our cities to achieve sustainable growth. These include the following:

- Ensure that City leaders take bold and decisive action to attract the private sector investment that is so critical to urban economy;
- Ensure injection of investment in urban areas, to support growth and structural changes needed to ensure sustainable urban development. To attract investment, cities need efficient infrastructure, plenty of skilled labour, access to quality housing as well as social services like health care.
- Support critical infrastructure investment in cities and their surrounding areas;

- Support individuals, especially the unemployed youth in cities to gain skills and get into work or start up their own businesses.
- Ensure that businesses have the physical infrastructure they need, and that families are able to find decent housing and quality of life in the cities.
- Ensure in place business finance partnership, to increase access to finance for small and mid-sized businesses;
- **Ensure legislative enforcement:** Through their legislative and oversight role, Parliamentarians should help in influencing the level of enforcement as an essential part of implementation of laws regarding sustainable development. Many times laws are passed but the implementation of such laws is weak. An example is a bill on the ban of polythene bags (less than 30 microns) in Uganda in 2007 which is yet to be implemented. Unfortunately, the environment in most of the urban areas continues to choke as a result of the poor disposal of these materials. These polythene bags have been the major cause of blockage of water ways and drainage channels in cities like Kampala.
- **Promote improvements in the transport sector:** Improvement in this sector in terms of new and efficient technologies (especially fuel efficient vehicles) would save time wasted in traffic as well as reduce on air pollution. In addition, good road infrastructure would attract investment in other sectors of the economy. An integrated transportation strategy is required which simultaneously improves technology, facilitates modal shifts and reduces the need for travel. Cities with substantial commitment to sustainable transportation perform better economically as well as environmentally. Furthermore, there is need to encourage the use of alternative forms of transport that release little or no greenhouse gases into the atmosphere for example, bicycling and walking.
- **Promote development of appropriate building designs, provision for public space and greening for cities** with vegetation can lower local temperatures. Studies for the city of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso point to the beneficial effect of the green belt of trees in the heart of the city, which helps offset the rise in temperature associated with increased urbanization.³ In cities where such provisions are not catered for, lowering of temperatures can be challenging including finding shed.
- **Advocating for better and affordable housing facilities:** Parliamentarians as representatives of the people can advocate for better and affordable housing facilities for urban dwellers particularly the poor. Providing this group with better housing facilities would reduce on the magnitude of disasters and losses incurred in case calamities like fires and floods hit. The costs of supporting disaster response are proportionally lower per head of population; compared to less densely settled areas

Satterthwaite et al. 2007, report that 99% of households and businesses in low income countries do not have disaster insurance.⁴

Forging partnerships with civil society organizations: The importance of Parliamentarians forging partnerships with civil society organizations should be emphasized. Working with the civil society would activate the role of the citizen in conserving the environment and restricting unsustainable practices in utilization of natural resources.

The role of Parliaments in influencing economic growth as well as sustainable development that reflects the concerns of the general public cannot be overemphasized. However, Parliaments oftentimes lack the independence, knowledge and resources to perform their functions, especially in the poor countries.⁵

4. Ladies and gentlemen, let us reunite our efforts and create a new synergy to address development concerns and adopt a comprehensive approach. We are at an important juncture in the history of mankind that dictates that either we make it” or break it”

As I look around today and find my self among eminent personalities, many of whom have spearheaded HABITA agenda since founders of GPH and pioneers of south-south cooperation, I get the conviction that every productive deliberations will be ensured.

We wish to learn from each other, share best practices and benchmark country actions, our effort today will shape the destiny of our Children, we can not compromise the future generation of millions of City dwellers, lets put our hands together to make cities ignite sustainable growth in the 21st Century to be a great century of transition that will make planet earth a better place to live.

A S A N T E S A A N A

..... **O B L I G A T O!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**