



Global Parliamentarians on **HABITAT**

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Minutes



6th GPH
Global Forum of Parliamentarians on
HABITAT
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6th Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

18 to 20 March 2010

**in the Camara Municipal do Rio de Janeiro
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

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Thursday 18 March 2010

1. Opening ceremony

In the evening of 18 March 2010, the opening ceremony of the 6th Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat was held in the historic council chamber of the city of Rio de Janeiro, with over 100 participants. The theme of this year's Forum was "Sustainable Urban Development". Amongst other things, it was discussed how parliamentarians can motivate slum dwellers to participate in the social life of their city through legislation and how to ensure that climate change is taken into account in urban development policy.

After the Brazilian national anthem was played by a music ensemble, **Carlos Alberto Vieira Muniz**, Deputy Mayor of the city of Rio de Janeiro, presented the situation of his city, focusing in particular on the mobility of its residents. This is currently characterized mainly by car traffic, which is a clear discrimination in favour of the privileged population. In order to improve the mobility of the less privileged residents of Rio de Janeiro, the expansion of public transport and of pedestrian paths is necessary.

Julio Lopes, Secretary of State for Transport, represented Serge Cabral, the Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro. Lopes emphasized how important it was that parliamentarians would be able to discuss the great challenges of their countries in this forum. He described this as the most effective way he knew with which to address any kind of challenge.

Eliomar Coelho, a member of the American Board of Directors of the GPH and host of the forum emphasized the important role of so-called "green issues" in particular at local level.

Eloy Cantu Segovia, President of the GPH-America, reported on the many initiatives of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat in particular in Latin America.

Peter Götz, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, welcomed the parliamentarians who had come from all over the world to participate in the 6th

Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat. He reported on the activities and achievements of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat in the last two years. The aim of the Forum is to work together to find ways in which parliamentarians can make their cities sustainable in every respect, and in which they can better connect economy and ecology in urban development.

Jorge Felipe, President of the Chamber of Rio de Janeiro, called upon the participants not to underestimate climate change. "If we can not do what we want, we should do what we can."

A chorus of Brazilian singers concluded the opening ceremony with their songs.

Friday 19 March 2010

2. Election of a Board for the day

Eliomar Coelho welcomed the over 100 parliamentarians from more than 25 countries.

Peter Götz suggested the election of a Board of Directors to preside over the meeting for the next two days. The following Board for the day was elected by the members of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat:

President: Eliomar Coelho
Vice President: Eloy Cantu
Members: Gregorio Honasan, Oscar Velarde Vega, Peter Götz

Peter Götz excused the absence of Constantin Igas, President of the GPH-Europe, who had to cancel at short notice for important political reasons as well as that of Margaret Zziwa, President of the GPH- Africa.

3. Reports of the Presidents of Regional Councils

The presidents of regional councils presented their reports on the activities and projects of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat in their regions. The reports of Constantin Igas, President of the GPH-Europe, and Margaret Zziwa, President of

the GPH-Africa, will be made available on the new website of the GPH (www.gph-habitat.de/en).

Eloy Cantu, President of the GPH-Americas, introduced the new Board of Directors of the GPH-Americas which was elected the day before, on 18 March 2010, during the regional meeting. He congratulated the new President of the GPH-Americas, José Ramón López Martell from Mexico. Eloy Cantu will continue to be active on behalf of the GPH as President of the Advisory Council. He also presented a Declaration of the GPH-Americas, which had also been drafted and adopted at this meeting.

Gregorio B. Honasan II, Acting President of the GPH-Asia, reported on the activities of the GPH in Asia and stressed the importance of cooperation between all countries in order to give our children and grandchildren a future worth living. He confirmed his intention to hold next elections for the Asian Board of Directors in 2011 at the latest within the framework of the next Global Forum in Zadar, Croatia.

Oscar Velarde Vega, Alternate Chairman of the Advisory Council of the GPH, presented amongst others two publications on the future of federal legislation in the field of urban development in Mexico.

Nick You, Senior Advisor, Policy and Strategic Planning, Office of the Executive Director and Chief, World Urban Campaign, reported on the World Urban Campaign of UN-Habitat. The World Urban Campaign is a new forum which aims to strengthen cooperation between the more than 15 000 Habitat Agenda partners.

4. Workshops

The participants were divided into three groups that took part in workshops on the following topics: Climate Change, City for All, Urban-Rural Linkages.

4.1. Climate Change

This workshop was initiated by a presentation of expert Dr. Erika Pires Ramos and

chaired by Oscar Velarde Vega, Alternate Chairman of the Advisory Council of the GPH. The focus of the discussion was the reduction of the causes and effects of climate change and the promotion of disaster prevention measures. **Dr. Peter Fischer-Bollin**, Country Representative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation in Brazil, was grateful for the opportunity of supporting the GPH by providing an expert.

4.2. City for All

Dr. Carlos B. Vainer made himself available as an expert for this workshop. **Eliomar Coelho**, member of the Board of Directors of the GPH-Americas, chaired the workshop. The focus in this workshop was on strengthening the principles and instruments of participation in the formulation and implementation of legislation.

4.3. Rural-Urban Linkages

The contribution by **Dr. Carlos Walter** was presented by **Jorge Luis Borges**, geographer and assistant of Eliomar Coelho, as Dr. Walter was forced cancel his participation at short notice. There nevertheless ensued a lively discussion, chaired by **Jorge Luis Borges**. The correction of unequal relations between cities and their surrounding rural areas was the focus of this meeting.

In the afternoon, the results of the workshops were presented and a first draft of the Declaration of Rio prepared using the results of the workshops as a basis.

Saturday 20 March 2010

5. Platform for members of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

Several members of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat had their say and commented on the progress of the conference, its themes, or reported on the progress or problems in their own countries.

6. Adoption of the "Declaration of Rio" and election of the Board of Directors

The "Declaration of Rio" was unanimously approved.

Peter Götz was unanimously re-elected President of the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat for another two years. The Presidents of the Regional Councils are automatically Vice-Presidents of the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.

7. Closing ceremony

Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, thanked the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat for the many years of support and emphasized the important role of parliamentarians in particular in the legislative process and in the distribution of public funds.

Peter Götz, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, thanked the parliamentarians for their hard work and for the trust they had placed in him during the elections. It must be the concern of all responsible parliamentarians to combine economic developments and environmental issues in such a way that good laws arise. Human beings should always be the focus of all efforts.

Dr. Drazen Grgurovic, Mayor of the city of Zadar in Croatia, presented the advantages of his city in a video as host of the next Global Forum in 2011.

A group photo was taken and the forum concluded with a formal lunch.

08/04/2010

Attachments