



# Global Parliamentarians on **HABITAT**

**Peter Götz**

Deputy of the Federal  
Republic of Germany

President of the Global  
Parliamentarians on Habitat

## **Minutes**

of the

### **Round Table of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat**

**World Urban Forum VI**

**4 September 2012, 4:30pm – 7pm**

**Sala Italia, Naples, Italy**

#### **“Cities as Engines of Economic Growth: the Role of Parliamentarians”**

Mr. Peter Götz, MP, Germany, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, opened the Round Table and welcomed the participants.

Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, stressed the importance of Parliamentarians as partners of UN-Habitat and their crucial role in shaping a sustainable urban future.

Ms. Mariam Nalubega, MP, Uganda, Secretary-General of the GPH-Africa, encouraged parliamentarians to become champions of the Habitat Agenda and to contribute to making cities competitive and good places to live. She emphasised the need for a stronger participation of the citizens but also of the private sector in formulating policies.

Mr. Jerko Rosin, Croatia, President of the GPH-Europe, spoke about the importance of improving the urban planning process and asked the participants to also consider Human Health a topic of special concern to UN-Habitat.

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Mr. Susheel Kumar, representative of Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, India, stressed the need for inclusive and empowered cities and the role of parliaments in ensuring that environmental considerations are taken into account at all stages of the budget cycle.

Mr. Mohammed El- Bakkouri, Senator, Morocco, Vice-President of the GPH-Africa, underscored the rapid urbanization especially in the South and the development of real cities on the rims of existing cities.

Ms. Patricia M. Hajabakiga, MP, Rwanda, East African Legislative Assembly and representative of Ms. Margaret Zziwa, President of the GPH-Africa and Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, asked to look at urbanisation as a solution, not a problem, and emphasised the importance of Land and Security of Land as well as the need to make very specific recommendations to governments to allocate a specific budget to cities.

Mr. Yves Dauge, Former Senator, Deputy, and Mayor, France, President of the French World Heritage Sites Association, focussed on the relationship between the national state and local authorities and stressed the role of Youth and innovation for our future.

Ms. Nancy Abisai, MP, Kenya, Member of the East African Legislative Assembly, and representative of Ms. Margaret Zziwa, President of the GPH-Africa and Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, requested the participants to concentrate on the positive effects of urbanisation, such as the effect it had on lowering the rate of poverty. She also mentioned the need for Parliamentarians to raise awareness about issues concerning urbanisation.

Ms. Susan Lyimo, MP, Tanzania, Alternate President of the GPH-Africa, noted that wealth is created in cities. However, tight budgets are a problem in the face of rapid growth and it is the responsibility of Parliamentarians to ensure that money in local governments is properly allocated.

In the ensuing discussion, representatives from China, Morocco, Tanzania, Namibia, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Sweden, Indonesia, Niger and Kenya made, amongst others, the following observations:

- The empowerment and participation of Women and Youth is essential in order to find ways towards productive cities which are also inclusive.

- The growing divide between the urban rich and poor all over the world was a cause for concern and needed to be addressed.
- The need for inclusive and good urban planning was stressed.
- The importance of the constitutionalisation of the Right to Housing was raised.
- Parliamentarians are responsible for informing themselves, for raising awareness and sharing best practices.

Mr. Peter Götz, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, thanked the panelists and discussants for their contributions and reminded them of the importance of their political will in enabling cities to formulate and tackle their future.

**World Urban Forum VI**  
**Global Parliamentarians on Habitat Round Table**  
**Tuesday, 4 September 2012**  
**16:30 pm to 19:00 pm**

## **Panel**

### **Chairperson**

Mr. Peter Götz, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

### **Guest of Honour**

Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

### **Vice-Chairpersons**

Ms. Mariam Nalubega, Secretary-General of the GPH-Africa

Mr. Jerko Rosin, GPH-President of Europe

### **Panelists**

Ms. Patricia M. Hajabakiga, Rwanda, Member of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), representative of Ms. Margaret Zziwa, President of the GPH-Africa and Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly

Ms. Nancy Abisai, Kenya, Member of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), representative of Ms. Margaret Zziwa, President of the GPH-Africa and Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly

Mr. Susheel Kumar, India, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, representative of Minister Kumari Selja

Mr. Mohammed El- Bakkouri, Senator, Vice-President of the GPH-Africa

Mr. Yves Dauge, Former Senator and Deputy, France

Ms. Susan Lyimo, MP, Tanzania, Alternate President of the GPH-Africa

## **Discussants**

Ms. Anne Makinda, Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania

Mr. Ouadia Benabdellah, MP, Morocco

Mr. Geraldo Magela, MP, Brazil

Mr. Bounmer Abdelkarim, Senator, Morocco

Mr. Younoussa Tandy, MP, Niger

Mr. Eduardo Santillon Perez, Deputy of Local District XVIII, Mexico

Ms. Rosio Sanchez Andia, Deputy of the City of Buenos Aires

Mr. Wilbur K. Ottichilo, MP, Kenya

Mr. Otto von Arnold, MP, Sweden

Mr. Jiang Mingjun, President of the International Ecological Safety Collaborative Organization and Chairman of the Climate Change Committee of The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)

Mr. Sipapela Cletius Sipapela, MP, Namibia

Mr. Muhammed Firdaus, MP, Indonesia