

REPORT ON THE MEETING OF GPH AND GC-22 OF THE UN-GENERAL ASSEMBLY NIROBI APRIL 2009

The president of GPH-Hon. Goetz Peter

Senator Eloy Cantu Segovia, Vice president GPH-America

Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon Vice president GPH-Asia

Hon. Margret Zziwa GPH-Vice president –Africa

Senator Traian Constatain I gas Vice president GPH Europe

All Senators and Parliamentarians

Ms Axumite Gebre-UN-HABITAT

Mr. Markandey Rai-Cordinator GPH

Miss Bertui Linus. Secretary General GPH

Other invited participants, ladies and gentle men,

It's indeed an honor and privilege for me to join members of GPH here in Washington as we mark and celebrate the World Habitat Day. In my country, similar events organized by the Minister of Housing and Planning are taking place in different parts of the country.

I would like to thank members of GPH who joined us in Nairobi during the GC-22 of the UN-Assembly where GPH held its meeting which among others resulted into the rejuvenation of the GPH African Chapter. Allow me in a special way to thank the GPH president Hon. Goetz for the trust he put in me to chair the meeting while he was attending to other national duties and also congratulate him upon his re-election into Parliament.

I wish to say that as the presiding chair of that meeting, we managed to reach consensus and it's against this back ground that I take the opportunity to report to you the outcome of the Nairobi GPH and GC-22 meetings.

GPH Session

The meeting of GPH took place on Wednesday the 1st of April 2009 in Conference room 14 during the GC-22 of the UN-Assembly at the UN premises in Gigiri Nairobi. I was extremely fortunate to chair this meeting which was well attended by over fifty (50) members of parliament and Senators.

On this note I wish to recognize the following members who are here with us today and also happened to have attended the Nairobi meeting, thank you for your active participation. It's my hope that the coordinator who was our minute secretary will present to you the minutes at an appropriate time.

Mr. President, I am glad to report to you that we as parliamentarians we were honored with the presence of Dr. Ann Tibaijuka, the Executive Director UN-HABITAT and her address to GPH together with Prof O. Oyebanji, director monitoring and research division in the UN-HABITA.

Regional Reports

Hon. Parliamentarians, during the Nairobi Meetings , I presented a report for, Africa which highlighted issues of lack of the regional chapter, where as other reports were from Europe and Latin America which emphasized the need for parliamentarians to address issues of the financial crisis, climate change, peace and security among others. Asia had a good representation although there was no report from this region and we are hoping that today the vice president will update us on the progress.

Theme for GC-22

Mr. President, the theme for the GC-22 was "Promoting affordable housing finance systems in an urbanizing world in the face of the Global financial crisis. This theme was found fitting by all parliamentarians, it was exhaustively discussed and resolutions to the main meeting were past and presented briefly by Hon. Mariam Nalubega acting GPH President during the closing ceremony of GC-22 of the Un- Assembly, a copy of which is here by laid on table.

Institutionalization of GPH

During the meeting we were briefed by the coordinator Mr. Markandey Rai on the process that was initiated by the GPH Board during the Board of Directors' meeting in Nanjing on the need to register and make GPH a fully flagged institution under the civil society and non government bodies.

He reported to the meeting that AWEPA together with GPH Secretary General were developing a strategy on how to carry out this exercise and that some communication had been started with different organization to see how this process can be done. He request Miss Miriam a representative from AWEPA to give a brief on how far the process had gone.

However Miss Miriam did not have good news as she informed the meeting that her office had not succeeded in attracting funds which could enable this exercise to take place. The meeting referred this matter to the Board and the next general GPH meetings I believe that we have to focus on it as a way forward to boosting and ensuring that GPH is popular and vibrant.

By Laws

As a chair of the meeting I drew members to an important item on the agenda which was referred by the Board and general meeting that took place in Nanjing. Copies of the By-Laws were availed to members but it was not possible to amend the Laws since there was no quorum and other technicalities of the Laws and procedures of GPH had to be followed and therefore this matter was stood over.

Elections

Mr. President, I did inform the meeting that during Nanjing board meeting, it was agreed that Africa and Asia do carry out their elections but it was noted that none of the region had succeeded in doing this activity. On this matter members submitted that since Africa had registers a fair representation it could use the opportunity to conduct its elections and that this would save costs and other inconveniences.

On this note therefore Hon. Parliamentarians, I want to bring the good news that the African Chapter held its election in Nairobi and the following emerged as executive members;

President: Hon. Zziwa Margret Nantongo EALA

Hon. Mariam Nalubega Alternative President-Uganda

Hon. Diegaardt Theo-Namibia

Hon. Njoki Ngudu Secretary-Kenya

Hon. Tubwita Grace Treasure-Uganda

The African chapter under the able leadership of Hon. Zziwa held its first meeting in Uganda and I believe the Vice president (Hon. Zziwa) is here to give us these details. It was unfortunate that Aisa could not raise quorum for this exercise but I pray that this time or soon than later this chapter will be revised.

Hon. Parliamentarians, allow me to conclude by thanking our coordinator for the good co-operation and services he gives to GPH. I wish to say that, hadn't it been Mr. Markandey, GPH slot onto speak during the closing ceremony would not have been realized and therefore I thank you very much. In the same spirit I would like to thank the Secretary General of GPH Miss Lenius for her good working relations and constant communication to GPH members.

Thank you for listening to me and I wish you good deliberations