

Minutes of the
Meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) on
Wednesday, 1st April 2009 in Conference Room 14
During the 22nd UN GC MEETING AT UN premises in Gigiri,
Nairobi

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) met on Wednesday, the 1st April 2009 in the UN premises in Nairobi to discuss and exchange views on how to strengthen the Global Parliamentarians forum on Habitat as well as its regional forums to make them more active in promoting the housing and human settlements agenda as well as achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) under the current financial crisis and climate change.

The meeting was attended by more than 50 Members of Parliament as participants from all over the world among which five were the ministers and speakers. The meeting was also attended by the representative from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and by the representative of the Association European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA). The full list of the Participants is attached.

The full day agenda covered several items including the review and reporting on activities in various regions and the registration of GPH as well as its by-laws. The need to reorganize the African and Asia chapters of the Global parliamentarians was also included in order to enhance the participation of parliamentarians in the implementation of the Habitat agenda. The Recommendation to this effect has been made to UN-HABITAT in the form of a resolution (Annex 1).

The meeting was chaired by Hon . Mariam Nalubega, Member of Parliament Uganda as the Acting President of GPH of Africa on behalf of the President Hon. Peter Goetz. The full day agenda was approved without further comments (Annex 2).

The welcome address was delivered by Prof O. Oyebanji, Director, Monitoring and Research Division, UN-HABITAT. He welcomed the participants and stressed the important role parliamentarians can play in the implementations of the Habitat agenda and achieving the millennium developments goals (MDG's). He reminded parliamentarians' role

especially in the present global economic crisis. He further assured them of UN-HABITAT's support in their endeavor to reorganize the regional parliamentarian's forums and to make GPH more action oriented.

Mr. M. Rai, Coordinator Global Parliamentarians, UN-HABITAT presented the opening statement on behalf of the President of GPH Hon. Peter Goetz. He conveyed his apology for his inability to attend the GPH meeting and the 22nd UN GC due to equally important commitments and he expressed regrets for not being able to participate in other Board of Directors meetings also. In his message he expressed his confidence in the Chairperson and the ability of participants and strongly conveyed the need to organize the African chapter of GPH in this meeting (Annex 3).

- Hon Mariam Nalugega presented a brief report on the World Urban forum IV which was held in Nanjing, China, 3-6 November 2008. She briefed the outcomes of the Round Table Meeting of Parliamentarians on Cities and Climate change and the Role of Parliamentarians. She Congratulated UN-HABITAT for its theme during the Governing Council and commented that the theme has drawn a lot of debate from Parliamentarians and the people in general. She pointed out that Asia and Africa regions are inactive (have been dormant), hence the need for re-organization and strengthening in their structures and that GPH should continue enforcing its role in different countries. Her report was followed by the regional report on the activities of GPH in the respective regions by the representatives of those regions of Africa, Europe and Latin America. It was mainly highlighted that parliamentarians should address and focus on real issues namely current financial crisis, climate change, peace and security among others.
- There was no report from the Asian region though the region was represented by good participation from Philippines, Pakistan and a big delegation from Malaysia.

Agenda item seven and eight on institutionalization/registration of GPH and its by-laws attracted a wide range of discussion and many valuable comments and suggestions were provided for consideration by the next Global forum of GPH.

On the theme of the 22nd UN GC "Promoting **affordable housing finance systems in an urbanizing world in the face of the Global financial crisis and Climate change**", participants showed support for this important theme

and a resolution was passed by the parliamentarians meeting which was presented briefly by Hon. Mariam Nalubega in the closing session of GC22 in her statement on behalf of parliamentarians.

The Executive Director of UN-HABITAT addressed the parliamentarians and reminded the important role they are playing in passing laws and setting priorities in the national budgets for shelter and eradication of urban poverty. She invited them to the next WUF V in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in March 2010.

The parliamentarians from Africa region agreed to hold an election for the office bearers of the Board of Directors of the GPH African (Chapter) Parliamentarians Forum and as a result the following office bearers were elected unanimously by the participating parliamentarians from African countries by acclamation.

President : Hon. Margaret Zziwa Nantongo, EALA Tanzania

Alternate president: Hon. Mariam Nalubega, Uganda

Vice presidents : Hon. Diegaardt Theo, Namibia

Secretary : Hon Njoki Ndugu, Kenya

Treasurer : Hon. Tubwita Grace Bagaya, Uganda

It was felt that there should be more participation of parliamentarians in the Governing Council meeting's of UN-HABITAT and should play more active role. A database of parliamentarians should be developed which should be updated by GPH on a regular basis.

The GPH Asian Chapter could not conduct the election of office bearers, it was resolved that circulars be sent to respective Parliaments further informing them about the GPH and calling for election of office bearers.