

**GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT – AFRICA COUNCIL CONFERENCE
REPORT**

June 2011

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GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT (GPH) OFFICE HOLDERS
(in attendance)

GPH Board of Directors

President Mr. Peter Goetz

GPH Africa Council Office Bearers

<i>President</i>	Ms. Mariam Zziwa Nantongo
<i>Deputy President</i>	Ms. Suzan Lyimo
<i>Vice President - East Africa</i>	Dr. Wilber Ottichilo
<i>Vice President - West Africa</i>	Mr. Mustafa Ahmed
<i>Vice President - South Africa</i>	Mr. Theo Diegaardt
<i>Vice President - North Africa</i>	Mr. Mohamed Albakkouri
<i>Vice President - Central Africa</i>	Mr. Alhatih Mohamed Seed
<i>Secretary General</i>	Ms. Mariam Nalubega
<i>Technical Secretary</i>	Mr. Musendu Flugu
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. Ralf Joma
<i>Former Parliamentarians Representative</i>	Ms. Njoki Ndungu

UN-HABITAT Parliamentarians Liaison

Parliamentarians Unit Chief Dr. Markandey Rai

MEETING OVERVIEW

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) and UN-HABITAT recently organized a regional conference of the African Council of GPH on Sustainable Urban Development. The Conference took place on Tuesday, 12th April 2011 at UN-HABITAT Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya during UN-HABITAT's 23rd Governing Council. *Please see the Agenda and Meeting Minutes, Appendix A and B.*

Speakers of Parliament nominated Members of Parliament from their countries, particularly those actively promoting sustainable urbanization in their Parliaments, to attend. The conference provided an opportunity to build the organizational structure and further formalize the Africa Council of the GPH through election of office bearers. Substantively, it brought African Parliamentarians together to network, share best practices, and discuss lessons learned regarding policies addressing rapid urbanization in Africa - particularly through promotion of pro-poor housing and alleviation of the urban divide.

Attendees gave presentations on recent policy developments in each country, specifically regarding pro-poor housing, slum reduction, infrastructure development, and related basic services. Many parliamentarians brought copies of legislation for group analysis and discussion on lessons learned. Examples of recent policies from attendee countries, including those highlighted in delegations' presentations, will be summarized in this report.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) is an international parliamentary group committed exclusively to promoting sustainable human settlements development through parliamentary action.. Founded in 1987 in Yokohama, Japan during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, it has maintained close cooperation with UN-HABITAT and participated in the landmark 2nd UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in June 1996 as well as Istanbul+5 Meeting in New York in 2001. From its inception to now, it has held five Global Forums of Parliamentarians and several regional council meetings.

While GPH as a whole is well-established, there is a pressing need to have more active sub-groups of Parliamentarians advocating for Habitat Agenda issues by region. The Parliamentarians Unit of UN-HABITAT has therefore taken great effort in recent years to develop GPH Regional Councils – particularly for Asia and Africa. Such Regional Councils offer spaces for Parliamentarians to focus on issues of special salience to their own region, to share best practices and lessons learned with countries more similar to their own, and to create regional coalitions for advocacy concerning shared problems.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEWS

Parliamentarians from the *Republic of Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana* and *Morocco* gave brief presentations on major housing policies they have drafted/passed and initiatives they have supported over the past 5 years. Major policies and initiatives involving parliamentary action at some stage are summarized in the tables below. Each item shows the date(s) of implementation, the policy/project title, and the stated contribution to urban development.

THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN (NORTH SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN)

With the Republic of Sudan due to officially split in July 2011, the volume of displaced persons in the country as a result of ongoing civil conflict, understanding and articulating housing policy developments in this country— now and in the near future - presents a challenge. Still, Hon. Elhatih Mohamed Saeed of Sudan reported that recent developments in urban housing policy includes the formation Commission of Lands to govern land use, a Bank of Housing to promote housing finance, as well as the passing of 13 laws that pertain to housing regulation. Further details on some of these policies and related initiatives s are given below. Effort is taken to distinguish between policies and initiatives which focus on either North or South Sudan.

Date Passed/Adopted Years of Implementation	Policy Title/Project Name	Urban Development Contribution
2007-2008	Southern Sudan: Support to the States Programme	Programme to strengthen the governance capacity of 10 Sudanese states to achieve better urban development results. UNDP funded.
2007-2009	Preparing for Sustainable Reconstruction of Shelter, Community Infrastructure and Land Tenure	Programme to create a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable shelter solution for displaced persons from Darfur. DFID funded.
2007-2009	Khartoum Urban Poor	Programme to complete physical planning in Greater Khartoum given the influx of displaced persons. EC funded.

GHANA

The Government of Ghana's urban housing related initiatives are largely guided by the current National Housing Policy. The Policy and accompanying Action Plan provide a legal and regulatory framework for Ghana's housing sector. Recent activities implemented under the policy include the establishment of a National Housing Fund for the servicing of affordable mortgages, slum upgrading financing and support of small building material producers. In addition, the designation of a National Housing Authority under the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing aims to result in better management and oversight of housing policy implementation. Highlights of the policy/plan, as well as related initiatives, are summarized below.

Date Passed/Adopted Years of Implementation	Policy Title/Project Name	Urban Development Contribution
2011	National Housing Fund (established under National Policy)	Supports affordable mortgages, slum upgrading and support for small-scale building material producers.
2010-2014	Ghana Urban Management Pilot Project	Initiative to support four municipalities in improved urban management and service delivery, as well as investment in infrastructure.
2010	National Housing Policy & Action Plan	Legal and regulatory framework for Ghana's housing sector. Highlights: -Establishes National Housing Fund -Establishes National Housing Authority under Ministry of Water Resources, Works, and Housing to over see policy implementation.
	Affordable Housing Project	35 million to build affordable housing units in 6 different sites.
	Housing Code	Establishes building and safety regulations for all physical structures in Ghana.
2004-2008	Land Administration Project	Reform of the countries land administration system.

UGANDA

Uganda's major National Housing Policy, a reform of the former National Shelter Strategy, was initiated in 2005. The policy sets minimum housing rights and safety standards, as well as delineates/strategizes the roles of different actors in the housing sector (particularly the role of the private sector). Emphasizing commitments stated in the policy, and moving beyond, the Ugandan government adopted the Bamako Plan of Action in 2010 at the African Ministerial Conference of Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD).¹ Honourable Nalubega of Uganda further discussed current land use policy which has alleviated the housing eviction problem in Uganda. Current initiatives to improve physical planning of Kampala are making progress and Uganda's slum upgrading progress is making headway in major slums such as Katanga.

Date Passed/Adopted Years of Implementation	Policy Title/Project Name	Urban Development Contribution
2010	Bamako Plan of Action	Makes clear national commitments to urban development and creates regional working groups where governments and exchange knowledge and information, as well as collaborate in development of policy.
2005	National Housing Policy	Reformed National Shelter strategy which guarantees right to adequate housing for all Ugandans, sets minimum housing standards, and delineates role of different

¹ http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/9736_1_593668.pdf

		actors such as private sector in housing provision/finance.
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KENYA

Initiated in 2004, Kenya is currently in the process of implementing and reforming its National Housing Policy. The policy sets targets for: poverty alleviation, public housing, urban housing creation, rural housing creation, and provision of shelter vulnerable groups through several mechanisms (e.g. planning and management of land use, infrastructure, building materials, research, financial resources, legislative/institutional framework). It delineates *Flagship Projects* aligned with Kenya's *Vision 2030* including infrastructural developments in slums of 20 urban areas, construction of 150,000-200,000 units per year through 2012, the establishment of housing technology centers, and the establishment of a secondary mortgage finance facility. The Kenyan Government is taking further action to improve urban planning and housing policy development as evidenced by the adoption of the 2010 Bamako Plan of Action and current work with UN-HABITAT on the formation of a Habitat Country Programme Document which outlines urban development strategy at the national level.

Date Passed/Adopted	Policy Title/Project Name	Urban Development Contribution
Years of Implementation		
Current	Habitat Country Program Document	Strategic urban planning document to guide policy development and implementation.
2010	Bamako Plan of Action	Makes clear national commitments to urban development and creates regional working groups where governments and exchange knowledge and information, as well as collaborate in development of policy.
2006	Housing Bill	Housing Bill 2006 for one-stop housing approval mechanism.
2004-Current	National Housing Policy (Flagship Projects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Installation of physical and social infrastructure in slums in 20 urban areas to formalize slums, permit construction of permanent houses, and attract investment -Construction of 200,000 units/year through 2012 -Establishment of housing technology centers to support location specific building materials and low-cost housing - Establish a secondary mortgage finance facility to increase access to housing finance

TANZANIA

At the meeting Honourable Anselm Lyimo and Honourable Lembei pointed out that while policies have led to significant improvement in the country's housing situation the country still faces a fundamental problem of ad-hoc infrastructure development rather than housing planning which takes into account projected movement of persons. However, in partnership with UN-HABITAT the Government of Tanzania is undertaking local-level reviews of urban policy and planning legislation.

In addition, and more specifically, much action is being taken to reform systems of housing finance. The National Housing Corporation which funds housing construction aims to increase its budget from \$23 million to \$230 million for 2011-2012 to address the national housing shortage. The NHC is also exploring low-cost housing technologies to make more efficient use of limited funds. *Please see below for a summary of relevant housing policies implemented over the past 5 years.*

Date Passed/Adopted Years of Implementation	Policy Title/Project Name	Urban Development Contribution
2011		Review of policy and legislation and local implementation
2010	Bamako Plan of Action	Makes clear national commitments to urban development and creates regional working groups where governments and exchange knowledge and information, as well as collaborate in development of policy.

MOROCCO

The most recent housing policy developments in Morocco revolve around housing finance. The Government has extended and amended the 2010 Morocco Finance Act to further privatize housing construction work for more efficient provision of new housing units. In addition, the recently passed Finance Act includes significant tax provisions to make housing more affordable. Honourable Albakkouri emphasized that the nations slum-upgrading efforts have made significant progress recently. Particularly innovative efforts are taking place in terms of low-cost, environmentally friendly technologies such as use of solar energy production and use.

Date Passed/Adopted Years of Implementation	Policy Title/Project Name	Urban Development Contribution
2011	2010 Morocco Finance Act (re-launch)	Privatization of housing projects to construct housing more efficiently.
2011	Finance Act	Tax provisions to increase access to affordable housing.
2011	National Best Practice Award	Awards local authorities on Excellency in local governance.
2010	Bamako Plan of Action	Makes clear national commitments to urban development and creates regional working groups where governments and exchange knowledge and information, as well as collaborate in development of policy.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Senator Musendu of the DRC reported on the ongoing implementation of the nations National Housing Programme aimed at providing adequate housing to all citizens. Funding is proving to be a major challenge with existing funds only covering a fraction of implementation costs. To improve housing finance options for citizens the country recently setup a *Bank for Housing*.

COUNTRY CASE PRESENTATION SUMMARY

In the meeting, parliamentarians provided overviews of such policy developments and the group began to discuss best practices and lessons learned based on this experience. The dialogue created between meeting participants incentivized them to further correspond and collaborate as they continue to develop housing policy in their own countries. While compilation and documentation of policies is the first step, the group hopes to carry out analysis of policies, to share lessons learned, and to develop assessment criteria/tools that can be used in the development and evaluation of future policies. Parliamentarians acknowledged that there was a large gap between written policy and policy implementation, and that this ultimately was the most important area of assessment.

CONCLUSION

The Africa Council Meeting of the GPH marks a serious step by African Parliamentarians to organize themselves in collaboration for more active, effective promotion of the Habitat Agenda. Through election of Office Bearers and provision of input for the GPH Charter the Parliamentarians contributed to the structural formation of their regional and global mechanisms of cross-country collaboration. Through discussion about housing policies they initiated dialogue on lessons learned and best practices that continues outside the conference, and will be followed up upon over time to progress to critical analysis and reform of policies/policy development approaches based on each others experience.

APPENDIX A – AGENDA

**African Parliamentarians Conference on Sustainable Urbanization
UN-HABITAT Headquarters at Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya
In Conference Room Number 3 (Three)
On Wednesday, 17th November 2010
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening Speech by Hon. Margaret Zziwa, Vice President of GPH and
2. Welcome note by UN-HABITAT
3. Presentations of Good Laws for Better Governance
4. Declaration and Action Plan
5. Election of the Office Bearers
6. Discussion of the Statute of GPH
7. Preparation for the 7th Global Conference of GPH in Croatia
8. Preparation for the 23rd Governing Council of UN-HABITAT
9. AOB

APPENDIX B – MINUTES

MINUTES

Africa Council of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) Conference on Sustainable Urban Development

*Nairobi
12th April 2011*

Agenda 1. Opening Speeches by Hon. Margaret Zziwa, Hon. Peter Goetz and Dr. Markandey Rai.

1.1 Speech Hon. Zziwa

The meeting began at 10:00 O'clock with opening remarks from Hon. Margaret Zziwa, Vice President of GPH and President of the African Council of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and the Chair of the meeting. She led the group in adopting the programme for the meeting and expressed her gratitude for being given the opportunity to participate during the 23rd session of the Governing Council and the GPH Conference.

1.2 Speech by Hon Peter Goetz

This was followed by opening speech by Hon. Peter Goetz, President of the GPH. He spoke on 'Good laws for better governance'. He also invited members to Zadar, Croatia for the Global Parliamentary Summit in May 2011.

1.3 Speech by Dr. Markandey Rai

Dr. Rai gave the Executive Director's welcome note on behalf of the Executive Director, Dr. Joan Clos. He welcomed the Parliamentarians to the meeting.

Agenda 2. Speech from Prof. Banji

After the tea break, Professor Banji gave a speech. He discussed how urbanization is a lot happening without industrialization, the Kibera Slum in Nairobi is being used as a tourist attraction instead of a site of development, and the challenge of growth without increased equity.

Agenda 3. Country Presentations of Good Laws for Better Governance

3.1 Case Study by Senator Musendu of D.R.C

The senator gave his presentation and mentioned that housing is a salient issue in his country. He emphasised that the role of Parliamentarians in reconstruction of his country is very important. Providing an overview of the D.R.C's ambitious National Programme aimed at providing housing for all its citizens, he pointed out that the biggest challenge is funding - as only a small percentage of programmatic costs are covered by existing funds. The country also has setup a Bank for Housing.

3.2 Presentation by Hon. Elhatih Mohamed Saeed of Sudan

He mentioned that Sudan's Parliamentarians are committed to UN-HABITAT legislation, e.g. housing and human rights. The Parliament has formed a commission of lands for land use, revising all planning objects which had been before; giving examples from various countries. Sudan has passed 13 laws that pertain to housing.

3.3 Presentation by Hon. Suzan Anselm Lyimo together with Hon. Lembei the chair in Tanzania.

She mentioned that even though there are 42 million people in Tanzania, only a 1/3 of the land is occupied by people. She indicated that 4.5% of the population live in cities. She pointed out that there are no homeless people in Tanzania and most of the poor living standards have been upgraded. The challenge in Tanzania, she described, is that people move (settle) and then infrastructure planning follows – rather than the other way around.

3.4 Presentation by Mustapha Ahmed of Ghana

He said that the country is densely populated but plans have been put in place to ensure decent and safe housing rights. He also mentioned that affordability, sustainability, improved access for land, better land administration and use of local building materials are among the recommendations given by the country's National Action Plans. He mentioned that there is a pilot programme between the Urban Governance Branch of UN-HABITAT and Ghana; establishing a project comprising of two to five (2-5) bedroom apartments.

3.5 Presentation on behalf of Hon. Nalubega of Uganda

The presenter pointed out that Uganda has a basket of laws, but indicated that the important part is how the laws are practised. Land use policy has helped solve the problem of evictions that earlier took place in the country. Physical planning is happening - including the plan for Kampala city. Even though many slums exist, they have embraced their slum upgrading programme - she mentioning Katanga as one of the slums which have been upgraded.

3.6 Presentation by Hon. David Were of Kenya

He emphasized on the need to provide basic facilities in the slum areas - such as water and proper shelter. He pointed out that the new constitution dispensation underscores the fact that housing is a basic right, and stressed on the need for allocation of adequate funds for upgrading and development of pro-poor construction technologies. They are working on strategies to reduce the cost of construction and the building code is also being reviewed. He bills in the House waiting to be passed that had to do with Housing.

3.7 Presentation from Malawi by Hon. Ralph Joma

Mr. Joma explained that the major challenge in his country is poverty, which has forced many young people to move out of their rural homes into urban areas. There was no formal presentation, but he elaborated upon the challenges that the country was facing.

3.8 Presentation from Morocco by Hon. Mohamed Albakkouri

He stated that slum up-grading efforts are being made - including remarkable steps in solar energy production. His Majesty the King has given a road map to provide a new constitution.

Agenda 4. Elections of board of Directors (President and 4 Vice presidents and other members of the board)

Hon. Zziwa began by illustrating the importance of the elections and the need for the members to vote for suitable candidates for the respective seats. She stated the available vacancies and invited the members to participate. Having interest to retain her seat, she opted to step aside to allow a neutral chair to conduct the elections. Dr Rai of UN Habitat took the chairman's seat. He congratulated the out going chair for her able leadership and wished her well in the coming elections. He further requested each of the 5 Africa Regions to elect a Vice President. The elections were thus conducted through acclamation and the following were the results:

- President Ms. Mariam Zziwa Nantongo
- Deputy President Ms. Suzan Lyimo

5 Vice Presidents of the Africa Region:

- East Africa Dr. Wilber Ottichilo
- West Africa Mr. Mustafa Ahmed
- South Africa Mr. Theo Diegaardt
- North Africa Mr. Mohamed Albakkouri
- Central Africa Mr. Alhatih Mohamed Seed

NB: In terms of the representatives who were not present, the presiding officer clarified that they requested to continue their term. They are as follows:

- Secretary General Ms. Mariam Nalubega
- Technical Secretary Mr. Musendu Flugu
- Treasurer Mr. Ralf Joma
- Representative of former Parliamentarians Ms. Njoki Ndungu

Agenda 5. Discussion of the Statute of GPH

Senator Flugu Musendu proposed that the Parliamentarians adopt the Charter but that it be amended later by the committee as needed. Dr. Rai then went on to explain the importance of having a Charter and commended Hon. Njoki Ndungu for the job well done in regards to drafting the charter. Hon. Ndungu explained the difference between the Charter and the By-laws. An amendment was then made on the title 'Councillor'; it was struck off in favour of the title 'Coordinator'. Hon. Lyimo proposed that the Charter be adopted; the Charter was then adopted by the Parliamentarians without any opposition.

Hon. Ndungu asked if they should have Ministers as members of GPH, Hon. Zziwa answered that there is no way to delink the two. Hon. Mustapha said the two are not mutually exclusive. Hon. Goetz added that having a Member of Parliament who is a minister has its own pros and cons.

Dr. Rai answered from the UN perspective saying that Parliamentarians are elected by the people and can play a very important role-pushing for policies to work for the poor.

Hon. Zziwa touched on the Action Plan saying that it's not yet formally drafted and more input is needed. It was agreed that the new board elected will meet the following day to draft the action plan.

Agenda 6. Preparation for the 7th Global Conference of GPH in Croatia

Hon. Goetz gave a brief outline on the meeting going to take place in Zadar. Dr. Rai was requested to provide a list of all the Parliamentarians who have attended the African GPH to be invited for the GPH meeting in Croatia.

In ending the meeting, Hon. Zziwa discussed on the resolutions of the GPH forum during the 22nd session of the GC in Nairobi on 1st April 2009. Dr. Rai suggested that the resolution be upgraded and presented during the closing session.

Agenda 7. A.O.B

Several orders of business were brought up before the meeting closed, including:

- The Board needs to update the agenda to be presented in Croatia.
- The Parliamentarians were requested to leave behind the good laws they presented to be documented and used in different countries.
- Members were invited to the Board meeting going to take place the following day.
- Members were requested to forward their inputs for the Charter by 28th April to Mr, Peter Goetz or Dr. Rai.
- Dr. Rai promised to send a soft copy of the Charter to all the Parliamentarians in attendance.

Dr. Rai thanked parliamentarians for attending the meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

APPENDIX C – STATEMENT BY DR. JOAN CLOAS (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNHABITAT)

Executive Director of UN-HABITAT
at the 7th Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.
Zadar, Croatia, 20 May 2011

Delivered on his behalf by
Markandey Rai
Chief, Global Parliamentarians Unit
Monitoring and Research Division, UN-HABITAT

Honourable Peter Goetz, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
Honourable S.E. Luka Bebic, President of the Croatian Parliament
Honourable Minister Constantin Traian Igas, President of the European Council of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
Honourable Margaret Zziwa, President of the African Council of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
Honourable Mariam Nalubega, Alternate President of African Council of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
Honourable Members of the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President, Honourable Parliamentarians

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address this distinguished audience of parliamentarians from all over the world. Let me start by thanking the President and the Members of the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat for their kind invitation to me to speak at this forum. I regret that I cannot be with you in person due to a clash of engagements. However, please know that you have my strong support and I very much look forward to the outcome of your deliberations. I would also like to thank the host of this forum for organizing it in this beautiful coastal city of Zadar, Croatia.

Honorable parliamentarians,

I know that many of you have travelled great distances to join together here for this 7th Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH). This itself indicates that you are committed and devoted to play your part in promoting better life through good urban policies and legislation. Thank you all for being here.
You are the law makers and promoters of “Good Laws for Better Life in Cities”. As the elected representatives of voters, you are close to the aspirations and wishes of the people. You have a

direct and critical role to play through proper urban policies and legislation in the improvement of the lives of the world's urban poor, including those living in slums or in inhuman conditions. Since 1987, when GPH took birth in the city of Yokohama, Japan – more than thirty years ago – the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat have been our very important partners. Your support to UN-HABITAT is more essential now than ever before, especially in this crucial time of economic downturn and in the face of ever increasing climate change problems. You have always stood in support of our quest for greener, better, smarter and sustainable towns and cities.

I have seen your agenda for this meeting and I can commend the President Hon. Peter Goetz and the Members of the Board who are steering the forum of GPH. The motto “Good Laws for Better Habitat” is excellent and will be complemented by the two workshops on Legislators as Drivers of Change and Climate Change and Coastal Cities. UN-HABITAT and GPH are coming closer because of your vision, increasing support, guidance and action oriented plans. Indeed, we at UN-HABITAT are only too aware that Parliamentarians hold the keys when it comes to legislating for a better urban future, for sustainable, cleaner, safer, greener, more caring inclusive cities that enshrine the rights of their citizens, especially women. In most countries it is you who set the laws and approve the budget.

Your duty is to hold governments accountable to their international commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals for poverty reduction. What is expected is coherent action by governments in delivering on their promises, and by parliamentarians in holding their governments to account. For UN-HABITAT, this vital partnership with parliamentarians helps ensure that shelter and urban poverty reduction are addressed in national policies

Honourable Parliamentarians,

The African Council of GPH conference took place on the 12th of April 2011 at the UN-HABITAT headquarters at Gigiri, Nairobi during the last Governing Council, and it focused on the theme of Sustainable Urban Development. The President of GPH Hon. Peter Goetz informed me the next day that it was very successful, especially in terms of participation and quality of discussion and presentation of good laws for better governance to address pro-poor housing, infrastructure and services. I am confident that progress has been made and this conference will further strengthen this forum at the global level. I understand that you are developing a Charter of Global Parliamentarians and also an action plan for implementation. These will strengthen the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat in terms of attracting more members and generate funds to implement the action plan.

I am very happy to learn that you are expanding your contacts and networking with parliamentarians all over the world, including in Africa and Asia as well as in North America. Revitalization of the African and Asian chapters of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat could not be timelier, and this is commendable, not only for the strengthening of the GPH but, also for the greater support that this will provide to UN-HABITAT in achieving its goals.

Honorable ladies and gentlemen,

As you are aware, the overall theme of the Medium Term Strategic and Institution Plan (MTSIP) of UN-HABITAT for the years 2008-2013 is Sustainable Urban Development. Through its MTSIP, UN-HABITAT aims to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development

Goal (MDG's). More specifically, our aim is to halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015 and to achieve national, regional and local targets for significantly improving the lives of slum dwellers by 2020. The original MDG target of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 has actually already been achieved: in the decade between 2000 and 2010, around 220 million people escaped slum conditions. However, we cannot sit back and relax. Despite this commendable achievement, the overall number of slum dwellers actually increased by 55 million. This only further illustrates the challenges we have ahead. And this is why the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT adopted, at its twenty-third session, resolution 23/9, which “..Invites Governments and regional and local authorities to enumerate the slum populations in their countries, regions and urban areas and, on that basis, to set voluntary and realistic national, regional and local targets, to be attained by 2020, with regard to improving significantly the lives of slum-dwellers”.

I have identified the following programmatic areas to prioritize UN-HABITAT's work within the framework of the MTSIP which are: (a) urban planning, including urban mobility and energy; (b) local institutions, governance and urban legislation; and (c) urban economy and municipal finance. This comes at a time when member States have made an urgent call for more prioritization of the agency's work. It is expected to achieve improved sustainable urban policies and legislation at local, national and regional levels. Your role of supporting us to achieve our goals through good laws for better governance can not be over emphasized. You can promote and support our plan by sensitizing the parliamentarians to pass relevant legislation and collect the legislation passed, tabled or under discussion on housing and human settlements. It is important for us to share your initiatives with countries around the world.

Mr. President, Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your continuous support to UN-HABITAT has always been very important, but is even more necessary now, given our new emphasis on urban legislation.

I wish you success in your deliberations and thank you for your kind attention.

APPENDIX D – SPEECH BY PETER GOETZ (GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT PRESIDENT)

Margaret, thank you for your warm welcome.

Good morning,

Honourable Colleagues and Friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be here with you today in this beautiful city of Nairobi.

I bring you the best wishes of the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
Thank you for coming to Nairobi.

For us as Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, your work in your countries and your personal involvement in Africa is of particular importance. My special thanks go to my Deputy and President of the African Council of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, Mrs. Margaret Zziwa-Nantongo, for the organization of this meeting here today in Nairobi.

I also thank Dr. Markandey Rai, Chief of Global Parliamentarians and Trade Unions at UNHABITAT, for his strong support in the planning and preparation of this meeting. I know very well how difficult it was. Thank you Markandey.

Dear Colleagues,

Let me briefly report on the activities of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat in the last year, so that you can gain a little insight into our work.

After holding global forums in Istanbul, Cancun, Manila, Berlin and Rabat, we, the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, held our 6th Global Forum in March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro.

We intensively discussed our options for action at national and international level in the field of sustainable urban development. We focused our discussions in particular on how to include the losers of the urbanization process in developing countries, the slum dwellers, in city life and how to bridge the urban divide.

We also focused on climate change and its impact on cities. We want urban development policy to include more renewable energy sources and greater energy efficiency and we have all adopted this goal in our “Declaration of Rio”.

In addition, the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat was newly elected.

A few days later, also in Rio de Janeiro, the 5th World Urban Forum of UNHABITAT took place. We held a Round Table for Parliamentarians on "Cities and Climate Change" at the Forum.

We also presented our organization within the framework of the newly established World Urban Campaign by UN-HABITAT before more than ten thousand participants.

The World Urban Campaign is an excellent network. It is also a good platform that allows us parliamentarians as partners of UN-Habitat to promote common positions of sustainable urban development together with other partners. This gives us a strong publicity impact.

For this reason, we have positively accompanied the creation of the World Urban Campaign right

from the start. I would like to thank our colleague Mrs Mariam Nalubega for strongly representing the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat at various events of the World Urban Campaign.

In October 2010 I was able to present our work within the framework of the World Habitat Week of UN-HABITAT at the Expo in Shanghai, China.

Today I want to draw your attention to our 7th Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat. It will take place in May 2011 in Europe in the beautiful coastal city of Zadar in Croatia.

You should have received the written invitation by now, either by e-mail or through the speaker of your parliament. If you have not yet received your invitation, I would like to ask you to give me your business card with your address.

The theme of the conference is "Good Laws for a Better Habitat". In Zadar, we want to talk about our options for action at national and international level in the field of sustainable urban development. We will in particular discuss the management of climate change in coastal cities and the role of parliamentarians as "Drivers of Change".

I would like to invite all of you to Europe and I am looking forward to seeing you again in Zadar in May this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues,

More than half the world's population already lives in cities today. The demographic growth will concentrate in the cities over the next 30 years.

In Africa, this urbanization process is taking place especially rapidly. Urbanization is a global process and it causes huge problems. Many mega-cities have become the nightmare of any housing policy. In these places, we must succeed in breaking the vicious cycle of poverty, hunger, housing shortages, lack of education, lack of work, but also of indifference towards fellow humans, other creatures and the environment.

If we fail to solve the social, environmental and economic problems soon, we must expect to deal with social unrest, crime, abuse of human rights and even revolts and civil wars, as we are unfortunately currently experiencing in many countries. We know very well how difficult it is to raise the necessary financial and human resources to influence the urbanization process in a positive and, above all, sustainable manner, especially in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We parliamentarians have a special responsibility in addressing these complex challenges. We have received this duty from the voters in our countries. The people must be at the heart of our efforts in all that we do.

The African Regional Council of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat is very dear to me. For this reason it was a priority for me to be here with you today. We need strong parliamentarians from Africa, who demand clear rules in their national legislation for sustainable urban development and who ensure that financial resources are provided for this purpose in the budgets of their countries.

I would therefore like to ask you to actively participate in the activities of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat. Today, elections of the African Board of Directors of our organization

of parliamentarians are on the agenda.

Please join us, we need strong personalities from the north and the south, from the east and the west of this wonderful continent. With your activity you strengthen our role as parliamentarians in your home country and internationally. We must not leave politics to the governments. This is only possible if we get involved personally. All of you who have come to Nairobi are committed to a better habitat. For that, I thank you very much. If we work together well and closely, we can tackle the huge challenges that lie ahead.

I trust we will have an interesting and successful conference.

Thank you for your attention.

