



## CROATIAN PARLIAMENT

### **Report of the International Roundtable Urban Economy, Port and Historical cities and 25th Anniversary of the Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT**

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*Abstract: On the International Roundtable Urban Economy, Port and Historic cities and a special part of UN -HABITAT and 25th anniversary of the Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT (hereinafter: GPH ) the representatives of national parliaments officials of Philippines, Malaysia, Morocco, Mexico, Namibia, Germany, Sudan, United Nations participated as well as the representatives of the World Urban Forum, ICOMOS and of the Croatian Ministry of Physical planning and Construction, and Ministry of Tourism. The host and organizer of the International Roundtable was the University of Split and Mr. Jerko Rosin, a former MP and President of the Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT for Europe. From the Croatian Parliament Mr Vedran Babić, delegate of the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament and member of the Committee for Planning and Construction as well as Mr. Milorad Pupovac, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs participated at the Split events. From the Croatian Parliament service Ms Martina Kušnjajić and Ms Maja Kiš, Advisors of the Croatian Parliament, participated. Many local and foreign experts and professors attended who deal with the topic of sustainable development and urbanism.*

The first day the joint meeting was held with members of the Committee Co-chairman of the Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT for Africa, Asia, America and Europe with representatives of the United Nations. The meeting was attended by Mr. Ronald Datuk Kiandee, Deputy Parliament of Malaysia, Mr. Peter Gotz, member of the German parliament, the Bundestag, Mr. Ernesto Gil Elorduy, Member of Parliament of Mexico, Mr. Alfatih Mohamed Saeed, Member of the Sudanese parliament, Mr. Vedran Babić, delegate of the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, UN representatives Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyiru, Deputy representative of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Mr. Makandey Rai, GPH representative to the UN.

During the meeting the Committee members presented their GPH reports on activities of the GPH, and topics of discussion were the drafting of the future plan of HABITAT

activities and the need for strengthening the role of the national parliaments of member states of the United Nations within the HABITAT activities.

Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira commended the themes of the International Roundtable, pointing out the need for strengthening the role of national parliaments on issues of sustainable development, which have become even more pronounced, and that the UN will very soon invite all national parliaments of the UN member states to stronger involvement in activities of the UN HABITAT organization. She informed all participants that soon the Working group of the UN will be formed which will be responsible for direct communication with the representatives of the GPH with all national parliaments and that they will monitor all activities of the Global parliamentarians HABITAT. She also informed the participants that in the near future the plan of UNHABITAT activities will be defined. During the meeting it was also proposed that all national parliaments should determine the permanent representatives and services which would deal with the activities of UN-HABITAT in order to ensure greater involvement of national parliaments in the activities of the Global Parliamentarians HABITAT.

For this purpose, the initiative of involving the national legislations in co-financing activities within issues of sustainable development was mentioned, which is now just a thesis and it will be a field of interest of the Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT in future.

The first day of the International Roundtable Program (APPENDIX I) the presentations and discussions on the topic of urban economy and port cities were held. Presentations and discussions were presented by many well-known experts and guests. Moderators of topics were Mr Mladen Vidiš, former Deputy Minister of the Government, and Mr Robert Plejić, Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture in Split. Other participants can be found on the list of participants of the International Roundtable (APPENDIX II).

The second day of the International Roundtable the presentations on the topic of historic cities and UN HABITAT were held. Moderators of topics were Mr. Miljenko Domijan, Professor of History and Art, the Conservator of immovable heritage in the Ministry of Culture and Mr Nicholas You, Chairman of the Board of the World Urban Campaign (WUC).

During the special parts of the program in Split, UN-HABITAT and the 25th anniversary of the Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT participants were addressed by Ms. Christine Auclair, coordinator of the World Urban Campaign, who commended the International Roundtable.

She pointed out that the International Roundtable included a significant part of the issues of urbanization life ambience. Those issues are a part of the cultural and natural heritage, which is unique and irreplaceable, and histories preserved, and present a great responsibility to future generations. She also announced the upcoming seventh World Urban Forum WUF7 will be held next year in Colombia, which will address issues of urban

sustainability issues of rapid urbanization and development with special emphasis on cities, communities, economies, climate changes and policies.

Mr Peter Götz, President of the Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT reminded the participants of the importance of the role which national parliaments play related to the theme of sustainable development. He also pointed out that there is a growing need for further involvement of the parliaments and it is necessary to get more of their involvement in the implementation of sustainable development themes HABITAT through national legislations.

Mr Jerko Rosin, President of the Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT for Europe stressed that the most significant responsibility of implementation of the HABITAT objectives into national legislation lies in the parliaments of the GPH. Unfortunately parliaments of all UN member states do not show the same interest and responsibility for the activities of the HABITAT or GPH organization. He thanked the Croatian Parliament for recognizing the importance of the Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT and expressed his hope that in the future they will continue with the same cooperation.

Mr Markandey Rai, the Representative of the Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT at the UN has stressed the need for joint action of the UN HABITAT organization with the national parliaments in order to ensure complete implementation of activities of the UN HABITAT goals. He mentioned the last year's Rio +20 conference thematically related to the basic document, which points out the need for expansion of the activities related to the process of encouraging the goals of sustainable development, which promotes "green economy" as a tool of achieving sustainable development, which calls on strengthening the Environment UN Programme dedicated to promoting measures for activities related to sustainable development, on development strategy related to financing activities, and focusing on greater involvement of civil society and science policy.

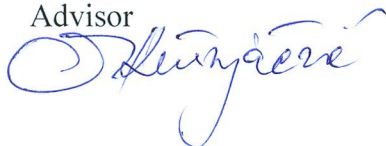
Mr Vedran Babić, delegate of the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament stressed that the Croatia even before the historic UN Conference (1992) determined its sustainable development with the Declaration on the Environment, which became the foundation of all future politics of the sustainable development and environmental protection until today. He also reported that Croatia monitors activities and topics of the UN HABITAT organization, especially focusing on the last year's UN Rio +20 conference where the Representatives of the Croatian Government participated. In his speech he pointed out that Croatia will more actively devote itself to development strategy in future, based on the principles of sustainability.

Mr Milorad Pupovac, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament has supported the International Roundtable, emphasizing the importance of issues and welcomed the high-quality presentations of participants. He stressed the importance of the involvement of the national parliaments on issues related to sustainable development and on the program that UN HABITAT organization deals with, considering that the involvement of all stakeholders (NGO's, local authorities, civil society and politics) is of a great importance for the future of the entire society.

At the end of the International Roundtable the final declaration with the conclusions of the event was adopted. The Final Declaration is a constituent part of this report.

Martina Kušnjajić

Advisor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kušnjajić', written in a cursive style.

Vedran Babić

Delegate of the Speaker

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Babić', written in a cursive style.