



# Global Parliamentarians on **HABITAT**

---

**Peter Götz**

Deputy of the Federal  
Republic of Germany

President of the Global  
Parliamentarians on Habitat

## **Minutes**

### **of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat**

**on 5. October 2009  
from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm**

**in the Embassy House  
of the German Embassy  
in Washington DC**

German Bundestag  
Platz der Republik 1  
11011 Berlin  
GERMANY

Tel. +49-30-227-74928  
Fax: +49-30-227-76862

[peter.goetz@bundestag.de](mailto:peter.goetz@bundestag.de)  
[www.goetzpeter.de](http://www.goetzpeter.de)

## **A. Participants**

Rodolfo G. Biazon, Philippines, Vice-President

Eloy Cantú Segovia, Mexico, Vice-President

Eliomar Coelho, Brazil, Counsellor GPH-America

Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Director of the New York Office of UN-Habitat

Tubwita Grace Bagaya, Uganda, Treasurer GPH-Africa

Daniela Georgian, Romania, Parliamentary Adviser

Peter Götz, Germany, President

Frank Gräf, Germany, Interpreter

Bobes Marin, Romania, GPH-Europe

Sanja Milinovic, Croatia, Third Secretary Embassy of Croatia

Mariam Nalubega, Uganda, Alternate President GPH-Africa

Markandey Rai, Kenya, Coordinator GPH UN-Habitat

Carmen Razon-Arceno, Philippines, Director-General

Jerko Rosin, Croatia, Vice-Chairman GPH-Europe

Margaret Zziwa-Nantongo, Uganda, Vice-President

## **B. Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting by Hon. Peter Götz, President
2. Greetings by Ms. Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Director of the New York office of UN-Habitat
3. Report by Hon. Mariam Nalubega, Alternate President of the GPH-Africa, on the GPH-meeting on 1 April 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya, and the UN-Habitat  
22. Governing Council
4. Report by Senator Eloy Cantú Segovia, Vice-President, on the activities of the GPH in America
5. Report by Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon, Vice-President, on the activities of the GPH in Asia
6. Report by Hon. Margaret Zziwa-Nantongo, Vice-President, on the activities of the GPH in Africa
7. Report by Senator Traian Constantin Igaş, Vice-President, on the activities of the GPH in Europe
8. Planning of the next World Forum of the Global Parliamentarians 2010 and of the Regional Forums in Africa, America, Asia and Europe
9. Preparations for the World Urban Forum V (WUF V) to take place from the 22-26 March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
10. AOB (Any Other Business)
11. Summary and closure by Hon. Peter Götz, President

## C. Discussion

### 1. Opening of the meeting by Hon. Peter Götz, President

Peter Götz welcomed the members of the Board of Directors (See **Appendix 1** for the participant list). World Habitat Day, which will be conducted this year by UN-Habitat in Washington, was an occasion for him to invite the members of the Board of Directors to a meeting in Washington DC in order to take important decisions on the future work of the GPH. He also invited parliamentarians who in their regions carry responsibility for the GPH and who are members of the Regional Chapters of the GPH. He thanked the German Embassy for their hospitality.

### 2. Greetings by Ms. Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Director of the New York office of UN-Habitat

Axumite Gebre-Egziabher conveyed the greetings from Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka and UN-Habitat. She thanked the parliamentarians for participating in the global celebration of World Habitat Day and pointed out that the World Urban Forum V (WUF5) would be held in Rio de Janeiro from 22 to 26 March 2010. She invited the parliamentarians to participate actively in this event.

### 3. Report by Hon. Mariam Nalubega, Alternate President of the GPH-Africa, on the GPH-meeting on 1 April 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya, and the UN-Habitat 22nd Governing Council

Mariam Nalubega informed about the progress of the 22nd Governing Council and the meeting for parliamentarians on 1 April 2009 in Nairobi. The report is attached (**Appendix 2**).

### 4. Report by Senator Eloy Cantú Segovia, Vice-President, on the activities of the GPH in America

Eloy Cantú Segovia pointed out that Brazil had been won as the host for the next Global Forum of the GPH. He made it very clear that the issues of climate change

and "green growth" need to play an important role in the cities. He handed over two CDs on which the activities, especially in Brazil and Argentina, are presented.

5. Report by Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon, Vice-President, on the activities of the GPH in Asia

Rodolfo G. Biazon announced that his term ends in 2010, that he was no longer running as a candidate and that he is thus no longer available for a function for the GPH. His report is attached (**Appendix 3**).

Decisions in Asia have failed due to not reaching the quorum. Asia had imposed its own more stringent by-laws and decided that parliamentarians of at least twelve countries must be present when voting.

A conference was conducted. Although there were many participants, they came from too little different countries. Too few Asian countries were represented in Nanjing, China, in November 2008 to effect changes in the personnel of the Board of Directors.

6. Report by Hon. Margaret Zziwa, Vice-President, on the activities of the GPH in Africa

Margaret Zziwa reported that the GPH-Africa have newly formed in April 2009 in Nairobi. She addressed the question of the institutionalization of the GPH. It was also debated whether the cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) can be strengthened. It is becoming increasingly difficult for parliamentarians to be reimbursed by their respective parliaments for their travel expenses. The report is attached (**Appendix 4**).

7. Report by Senator Traian Constantin Igaş, Vice-President, on the activities of the GPH in Europe

Marin Bobes reported on the conference in Bucharest (**Appendix 5**) on behalf of the European president Traian Constantin Igaş, who was unfortunately prevented from attending the meeting. The Vice-Chair of the GPH-Europe, Jerko Rosin,

informed the parliamentarians that his country, Croatia, would like to host the next Global Forum (Zadar). It was important to him that the issues of climate change and habitation be included in the agenda of the next conference.

#### 8. Planning of the next World Forum of the Global Parliamentarians 2010 and the Regional Forums in Africa, America, Asia and Europe

Peter Götz thanked Eliomar Coelho for offering to organise the next Global Forum of the GPH in Rio de Janeiro. Eliomar Coelho explained that the city of Rio de Janeiro would be the host of the forum. The conference could take place in the City Hall over two days. The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March were agreed on as the conference dates. On 18 March 2010 after the registration at 6:00 pm, the opening ceremony could take place, followed by a reception. On 19 March 2010 the discussion of the chosen topic could take place, the Declaration of Rio adopted and elections for the president held.

"Sustainable Urbanization" was proposed as theme for the forum. In three panels, the "Declaration of Rio" can be discussed and drafted. Further details still need to be determined. The "Declaration of Rio" will be presented the following week at the World Urban Forum V of the United Nations.

It was also decided to hold the next Global Forum in Zadar, Croatia. Jerko Rosin will discuss the next steps with the Croatian Parliament and the City of Zadar.

The next Regional Forums will take place

- for America also in Rio de Janeiro (2010)
- for Europe in Zadar (2011)
- for Africa in Nigeria or Uganda.

For Asia, the time and place of the next Regional Forum still need to be specified.

#### 9. Preparations for the World Urban Forum V (WUF5) to take place from the 22-26 March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

It was agreed to actively participate in the WUF5 in Rio de Janeiro and in the Round Table discussion for Parliamentarians on the topic of Climate Change and

Human Settlements on 23 March 2010. The Vice Presidents of the GPH and other active parliamentarians should participate in the panel. Moreover, it is expected of UN-Habitat, that the President of the GPH be given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the parliamentarians at the opening of the conference.

#### 10. AOB (Any Other Business)

The discussion about the registration and the by-laws was postponed to the next meeting of the Board of Directors due to time constraints.

#### 11. Summary and closure by Hon. Peter Götz, President

Götz thanked everyone. The next meeting will take place in late January / early February for the final preparation of the Global Forum.

## **Attachments**

**Appendix 1: Participant List**

**Appendix 2: Report of Mariam Nalubega on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Governing Council and the GPH-Meeting in April 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya**

**Appendix 3: Report of Rodolfo G. Biazon on the activities of the GPH-Asia**

**Appendix 4: Report of Margaret Zziwa-Nantongo on the activities of the GPH-Africa**

**Appendix 5: Report of Marin Bobes on the activities of the GPH-Europe**