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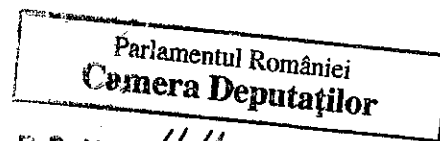
APROBAT

În ședința Biroului permanent al
Camerei Deputaților

din data de 9.11.2009



111



B.P. Nr. 111 din 9.11.2009

București, 30 octombrie 2009

INFORMARE

**Privind participarea la reuniunea Consiliului Director al
Parlamentarilor Lumii pentru Habitat (GPH) și la celebrarea Zilei
Mondiale a Habitatului.**

- Washington D.C., SUA, 5-6 octombrie 2009 -

În perioada 5-6 octombrie 2009, la Washington D.C., au avut loc reuniunea Consiliului Director al Parlamentarilor Lumii pentru Habitat – GPH și celebrarea Zilei Mondiale a Habitatului.

La aceste acțiuni Camera Deputaților a fost reprezentată de domnul deputat Marin Bobeș, membru al Comisiei pentru administrație publică, amenajarea teritoriului și echilibru ecologic și membru al Consiliului Director European al GPH.

Parlamentarii Lumii pentru Habitat a luat ființă la Yokohama în 1987, fiind singurul organism parlamentar care își dedică activitatea exclusiv dezvoltării durabile a așezărilor umane. Organizația colaborează îndeaproape cu ONU-Habitat, în vederea îndeplinirii obiectivelor sale.

Parlamentarii români s-au implicat în activitățile GPH încă din anii '90. În primăvara anului trecut, Parlamentul României a găzduit cel de-al VI-lea Forum European al GPH, iar în funcția de președinte al filialei europene a GPH a fost ales domnul senator Constantin Traian Igaș.

La 5 octombrie 2009, Muzeul Național de la Washington D.C., a găzduit celebrarea Zilei Mondiale a Habitatului cu tema „Proiect pentru viitorul orașelor noastre”.

Ceremonia de deschidere a Zilei Mondiale a Habitatului a reunit personalități de marcă în domeniu, printre care, Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Sub-Secretar General ONU și Director Executiv al ONU-Habitat, Susan E. Rice, Ambasador al Statelor Unite la Națiunile Unite, Melody Barnes, Director al Consiliului de politică internă de la Casa Albă, Dr. Judith Rodin, Președinta Fundației Rockefeller, Shaun Donovan, Secretar în cadrul Departamentului pentru locuințe și dezvoltare urbană din Statele Unite ale Americii, Jon Bon Jovi, membru al Comitetului de Onoare pentru Ziua Mondială a Habitatului din Statele Unite ale Americii care a prezentat mesajul domnului Ban Ki-Moon, Secretar General al Națiunilor Unite.

În mesajul său, domnul Ban Ki-Moon s-a referit la importanța tematicii în dezbaterile celebrării Zilei Mondiale a Habitatului „Proiect pentru viitorul orașelor noastre”, ca fiind o necesitate a locuitorilor din zonele urbane de a se înscrie, cât mai repede, în acest proiect. Domnul Ban Ki-Moon, a subliniat faptul că, schimbările urbane majore ale secolului 21 includ atât dezvoltări rapide ale multor orașe, cât și declinul altora, expansiunea sectorului informațional, precum și rolul orașelor în cauzarea sau cauzate de schimbarea climei. Astfel, sute de milioane de locuitori din zonele urbane sunt de asemenea, vulnerabili la creșterea nivelului mării, inundarea țărmurilor și alte dezastre naturale. În acest sens, este esențial să avem un proiect urban cât mai bun și echitabil pentru un viitor din ce în ce mai bun, mai verde și mai durabil pentru orașele planetei noastre.

În perioada 5-6 octombrie 2009, la Ambasada Germaniei la Washington D.C. s-au desfășurat lucrările reuniunii Consiliului Director al GPH.

Lucrările reuniunii Consiliului Director al GPH, de la Washington, au fost deschise și prezidate de domnul Peter Goetz, membru al Parlamentului German și președinte al GPH.

La întâlnire au fost prezenți parlamentari, membri ai Consiliului Director al GPH și invitați speciali, precum, dr. Klaus Scharioth, ambasadorul Germaniei la Washington, dl. Jerko Rosin, membru al Parlamentului Croației, vicepreședinte al GPH pentru Europa, dl. Marin Bobeș, membru al Comisiei pentru administrație publică, amenajarea teritoriului și echilibru ecologic (Parlamentul României) și membru al Consiliului European al GPH, dl. Eloy Cantu Segovia (membru al Parlamentului din Mexic), vicepreședinte al GPH, dl. Biazon Rodolfo, (membru al Parlamentului din Mexic), vicepreședinte al GPH, dl. Elorduy Ernesto Gil (Mexic), președinte al Consiliului consultativ al GPH, dl. Lopez Velarde Vega Oscar (Mexic), președinte interimar al Consiliului consultativ al GPH, dl. Ali Riza Alaboyun (membru al Parlamentului Turciei), dna. Zziwa Margaret (Uganda), vicepreședinte al GPH, dna. Bagaya Grace Tubwita (membră a Parlamentului Ugandei), trezorier al GPH pentru Africa, dl. Coelho Eliomar (Brazilia), consilier al GPH pentru America, dna. Nalubega Mariam (Uganda), președinte interimar al GPH pentru Africa, dl. Rai Markandey (Kenya), coordonator al proiectului UN-Habitat, dna. Milinovic Sanja (Croatia), secretar la Ambasada Croației la Washington D.C., dna. Axumite Gebre Egziabher, director al Biroului UN-Habitat din New York.

În deschiderea reuniunii din 5 octombrie a.c., domnul Peter Goetz a prezentat ordinea de zi și le-a urat bun venit membrilor Biroului Consiliului Director al GPH.

Domnul Peter Goetz a subliniat faptul că, celebrarea Zilei Mondiale a Habitatului desfășurată sub egida UN-Habitat la Washington, a constituit o oportunitate pentru domnia sa de a adresa invitații de participare membrilor Biroului Consiliului Director al GPH la o reuniune la Washington și de a lua deciziile importante care se impun cu privire la viitoarele acțiuni ale GPH.

Doamna Axumite Gebre Egziabher, director al Oficiului Națiunilor Unite pentru Habitat (UN-Habitat) de la New York, a mulțumit parlamentarilor pentru participarea la celebrarea Zilei Mondiale a Habitatului și a subliniat că, cel de al V-lea Forum Mondial Urban va avea loc la Rio de Janeiro, Brazilia, în perioada 22-26 Martie 2010, invitând astfel parlamentarii să participe activ la această acțiune.

Doamna Mariam Nalubega, președinte interimar al GPH pentru Africa, a prezentat raportul cu privire la reuniunea parlamentarilor membri ai GPH desfășurată în cadrul celui de-al 22-lea Consiliu Director al ONU-Habitat de la Nairobi, Kenya din 1 aprilie 2009.

Domnul senator Eloy Cantu Segovia, vicepreședinte al GPH, a prezentat raportul activitatilor GPH pentru America. Totodată, domnul Eloy Cantu Segovia a subliniat faptul că Brazilia a câștigat dreptul de a găzdui viitorul Forum Mondial Urban și a arătat că problemele cu privire la schimbarea climei și "crearea de zone verzi" trebuie să joace un rol important în viața orașelor.

Domnul senator Rodolfo G. Biazon, vicepreședinte al GPH pentru Asia a prezentat raportul activitatilor GPH pentru Asia și a anunțat că mandatul său de parlamentar se încheie la sfârșitul anului 2010 și nu mai dorește să mai candideze pentru un nou mandat, motiv pentru care nu mai poate îndeplini o funcție în GPH.

Domnul deputat Marin Bobeș, membru al Comisiei pentru administrație publică, amenajarea teritoriului și echilibru ecologic din Camera Deputaților și membru al Consiliului Director European al GPH a prezentat în numele domnului senator Traian Constantin Igaș, președintele filialei europene a GPH, raportul activităților GPH-Europa. (anexă).

În raportul său, domnul senator Traian Constantin Igaș a apreciat că de la momentul organizării la București, în perioada 23-24 aprilie 2008, a celui de al VI-lea Forum european al GPH și continuând cu reuniunea de la Bruxelles din primăvara anului 2009, a remarcat o creștere a interesului guvernelor europene cu privire la problemele legate de habitat. De asemenea, domnul Traian Constantin Igaș a evidențiat faptul că, schimbările climatice sunt cele mai dificile provocări pentru omenire, iar poluarea orașelor poate fi stopată doar prin reducerea populației, creându-se astfel condiții mai bune pentru persoanele care locuiesc în zonele rurale – o infrastructură îmbunătățită, pentru a nu mai migra la orașe.

Domnul Jerko Rosin, vicepreședinte al GPH-Europa, a informat parlamentarii despre intenția ca țara sa, Croația, să organizeze la Zadar, următorul Forum European al GPH, iar teme precum, schimbarea climei și habitatul să figureze pe agenda viitoarei conferințe.

Punctul 8 al ordinii de zi al întâlnirii Biroului Consiliului Director al GPH din 5 octombrie 2009, a avut în dezbatere proiectul pentru anul 2010 privind organizarea viitorului Forum Mondial al GPH și al Forumurilor regionale pentru Africa, America, Asia și Europa. Astfel, domnul Peter Goetz, președinte al GPH a multumit domnului Eliomar Coelho, consilier al GPH pentru America, pentru disponibilitatea organizării în 2010, la Rio de Janeiro, Brazilia, a celui de al V-lea Forum Mondial Urban al GPH.

Zilele de 18 și 19 martie 2010 au fost convenite ca date pentru desfășurarea celui de al VI-lea Forum Mondial al GPH care urmează să aibă loc la Primăria din Rio de Janeiro, astfel că, pe 18 martie 2010, urmează să aibă loc înregistrarea participanților, ceremonia de deschidere a forumului și o recepție, iar pe 19 martie 2010, discuțiile privind temele alese, adoptarea Declarației de la Rio, precum și alegerea președintelui. „Urbanizarea Durabilă” a fost propusă ca temă principală a acestui forum dezbătută în trei ateliere de lucru și Declarația de la Rio dezbătută și finalizată cu un proiect. De asemenea, au avut loc dezbateri cu privire la locul de desfășurare a viitoarelor forumuri regionale:

- Pentru America, Rio de Janeiro, Brazilia, 2010
- Pentru Europa, Zadar, Croatia, 2011
- Pentru Africa, în Nigeria sau Uganda

Pentru Asia, data și locul de desfășurare a viitorului Forum regional vor fi stabilite ulterior.

Un alt punct înscris pe agenda reuniunii din 5 octombrie a.c., a avut în dezbatere pregătirile pentru cel de-al V-lea Forum Mondial Urban care urmează să aibă loc în perioada 22-26 martie 2010, la Rio de Janeiro, Brazilia. Astfel, a fost convenită data de 23 martie 2010 pentru dezbaterile parlamentarilor la Masa Rotundă cu tema „Schimbările climatice și Așezările Omenеști”.

În încheierea reuniunii Biroului Consiliului Director al GPH din 5 octombrie 2009, domnul Peter Goetz, președintele GPH, a mulțumit membrilor Biroului GPH și a anunțat că viitoarea întâlnire a membrilor Biroului Consiliului Director al GPH va avea loc la sfârșitul lunii ianuarie 2010 sau începutul lunii februarie 2010, având în dezbatere detaliile finale cu privire la organizarea Forumului de la Rio.

La lucrările reuniunii GPH din 6 octombrie a.c., domnul Peter Goetz, președinte al GPH, a prezentat ordinea de zi și a urat bun venit parlamentarilor prezenți și a mulțumit ambasadorului Germaniei la Washington, Dr. Klaus Scharioth, pentru găzduirea reuniunii parlamentare în Ambasada Germaniei.

În alocuțiunea sa, dr. Klaus Scharioth, ambasadorul Germaniei în Statele Unite ale Americii s-a referit la semnificația temelor în dezbaterile reuniunii cu privire la habitat. În acest sens, domnul ambasador Klaus Scharioth a subliniat necesitatea construirii în zonele urbane de locuințe adecvate pentru toți cetățenii în contextul problemelor legate de schimbările climatice. Domnul Klaus Scharioth s-a referit, în mod special, la țările în curs de dezvoltare care trebuie să-și intensifice colaborarea în parteneriat și cu alte orașe de pe glob. Astfel, ca un exemplu al colaborării, domnul Klaus Scharioth a evidențiat 100 de orașe din Germania care se află în parteneriat de colaborare cu orașele din Asia.

În continuare, domnul Peter Götz a făcut câteva aprecieri referitoare la rapoartele prezentate de către membrii Biroului Consiliului Director al GPH privind activitățile GPH. Domnul Peter Goetz a subliniat faptul că, orașele se confruntă, tot mai mult cu efectele crizei financiare și economice și cu cele provocate de schimbările climatice. Țările în curs de dezvoltare care au contribuit cel mai puțin la aceste crize suportă cel mai mult consecințele acestora, în plus ele fiind nevoite să facă față acestor provocări.

Domnul Peter Goetz a subliniat faptul că, parlamentarii ca reprezentanți ai populației trebuie să aibă responsabilități multiple care să se regăsească în legi mai bune pentru a preveni efectele produse de schimbările climatice și pentru a asigura o dezvoltare urbană durabilă. În acest sens, GPH poate juca un rol important prin experiența sa și activitățile desfășurate.

În intervenția sa, domnul deputat Marin Bobeș, membru al Comisiei pentru administrație publică, amenajarea teritoriului și echilibru ecologic din Parlamentul României și membru al GPH-Europa, a subliniat că activitatea de reducerea a poluării a fost discutată în Parlamentul României și, în prezent, emiterea autorizației de construire a materialelor poluante se emite cu exigențe. De asemenea, activitatea industriilor poluante în derulare se află într-un program de reducere a noxelor.

În continuarea intervenției sale, domnul deputat Marin Bobeș, s-a referit și la faptul că, printre activitățile desfășurate de Comisia pentru administrație publică, amenajarea teritoriului și echilibru ecologic din Camera Deputaților unde este membru, a figurat și vizita la o fabrică de producere a cimentului, ceea ce a determinat luarea unor decizii cu privire la reducerea poluării prin arderea gunoiului menajer în cuptoarele de ardere a cimentului la circa 1100 grade C, ceea ce înseamnă o ardere completă.

Domnul Markandey Rai, coordonator GPH al proiectului UN-Habitat a rostit alocuțiunea doamnei Ana Anna Tibaijuka, Sub-Secretar General ONU și Director Executiv al ONU-Habitat. În continuare, domnul Markandey Rai s-a referit la documentul privind strategia de colaborare dintre GPH și UN-Habitat și a pus la dispoziția participanților prezenți la reuniune, câte un exemplar al acestui document anunțând și site-ul unde poate fi găsit documentul în vederea consultării.

Domnul Peter Goetz a informat participanții la reuniune despre decizia Biroului Consiliului Director cu privire la perioada și locul de desfășurare a celui de-al VI-lea Forum Mondial al GPH, care urmează să aibă loc în zilele de 18 și 19 martie 2010, la Rio de Janeiro, Brazilia, înaintea începerii lucrărilor celui de-al V-lea Forum Mondial Urban. Domnul Peter Goetz a sugerat ca în cele trei ateliere de lucru să fie discutate trei teme importante care vor precede tema principală „Urbanizarea Durabilă”, respectiv:

- Schimbările climatice;
- Orașe pentru toți;
- Legătura dintre urban și rural

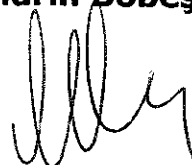
În încheierea reuniunii GPH de la Washington D.C., domnul Peter Goetz, președintele GPH a adresat mulțumiri tuturor parlamentarilor prezenți pentru participarea activă la reuniune, precum și rugămintea ca parlamentarii să mediatizeze organizarea celor forumuri, respecti, Forumul Mondial al GPH și cel de al V-lea Forum Mondial Urban, ce vor avea loc la Rio de Janeiro, în luna martie 2010.

Anexă:

- *Minuta privind reuniunea Biroului Consiliului Director al GPH*
- *Minuta privind reuniunea parlamentară a GPH*
- *Raportul activităților GPH-Europa, prezentat de domnul senator Traian Constantin Igaș, președintele GPH-Europa (engleză)*
- *Documentul privind strategia colaborării dintre GPH și UN-Habitat*

Deputat,

Marin Bobeș





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
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GOOD LAWS FOR A BETTER HABITAT

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 Igaș, 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 Igaș, 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 18th and 19th 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 22nd 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



Global Parliamentarians on **HABITAT**

Peter Götz

Deputy of the Federal
Republic of Germany

President of the Global
Parliamentarians on Habitat

Minutes of the Parliamentary Meeting

**on 06.10.2009,
10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**in the Carl-Schurz-Auditorium
at the German Embassy
in Washington, DC, USA**

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GOOD LAWS FOR A BETTER HABITAT

A. Participants

Ali Riza Alaboyun, Turkey, MP
Tubwita Bagaya Grace, Uganda, MP
Daniela Georgian, Romania, Parliamentary adviser
Peter Götz, Germany, MP
Frank Graf, Germany, Interpreter
Bobes Marin, Romania, MP
Abubakar Garba Shehu Matazu, Nigeria, MP
Sanja Milinovic, Croatia, Embassy of Croatia
Mariam Nalubega, Uganda, MP
Bukola Olorumdami-Ayeni, Nigeria, Committee Clerk
Markandey Rai, Kenya, GPH Coordinator, UN-Habitat
Jerko Rosin, Croatia, MP
Margaret Zziwa-Nantongo, Uganda, East African Legislative Assembly MP

B. Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting by Peter Götz, President
2. Welcome, Dr. Klaus Scharioth, Ambassador of Germany in the U.S.
3. Welcome, Dr. Markandey Rai, Coordinator GPH, UN-Habitat
4. Report of the Members of the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat on the activities of the GPH
5. Planning of the next Global Forum of Global Parliamentarians in 2010 and the Regional Forums in Africa, America, Asia and Europe
6. Preparation for the World Urban Forum IV (WUF5), 22 to 26 March 2010, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
7. Other points
8. Summary by Peter Götz, President

C. Review

1. Opening of the meeting by Peter Götz, President

Peter Götz welcomed the Parliamentarians present (see **Appendix 1** for participant list), and thanked the ambassador Dr. Klaus Scharioth hosting the parliamentary meeting in the German Embassy. Götz drew attention to the meeting of the Board of Directors on 5 October and the good discussions and decisions, which will be gone into in more detail later.

2. Welcome, Dr. Klaus Scharioth, Ambassador of Germany in the U.S.

In his welcome speech Ambassador Scharioth stressed the importance and topicality of the Habitat issues. He especially focussed on climate change and the need to deal with this issue in the construction of cities and housing. Particularly in developing countries, urgent action is needed, which must be tackled in partnership. He identified the partnership of 100 German cities with cities in Asia, as an example of cooperation to follow. The setting of a major trend was expected from the climate conference in Copenhagen.

3. Report of the Members of the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat on the activities of the GPH

After everyone present introduced themselves, Peter Götz took a stand and made it clear how more and more cities are feeling the impact of the financial and economic crises and climate change. He pointed out that in the news, reports of tsunamis, earthquakes, floods and droughts alternate. The developing countries that have contributed the least to these crises are feeling their consequences the most. They face additional challenges. While the population of cities is stagnating in industrialized countries, the urbanization in mega cities in developing countries is increasing rapidly. This results in poverty, slums and precarious living conditions.

Götz requests that the economic crisis be understood as an impetus for environmentally friendly policies and a strengthened international

environmental awareness. A more efficient use of available resources is therefore of paramount importance. He made it clear that Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, have a particular responsibility and demanded that they meet this responsibility through good laws for a climate-conscious and sustainable urban development. The GPH can play an important role by sharing their experience with all stakeholders and by raising awareness.

In the ensuing discussion Mariam Nalubega called for an inventory and analysis of existing legislation. Peter Götz reminded her of the comparative study "The implementation of the objectives and principles of the Habitat Agenda adopted in Istanbul in 1996 in the legislation of the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Romania and Turkey in the years from 1996 to 2005", which was financed by Germany and presented in Vancouver (World Urban Forum III) as well as the two workshops conducted on this topic in Bucharest (April 2008) and Berlin (World Habitat Day 2008). An extension of this study to other countries outside of Europe, for example by UN-Habitat, could lead to the gaining of new insights and make apparent deficiencies in the legislation. This had not been done due financing problems. The basis for an extension of the investigation is given.

Jerko Rosin asked to examine how the organization of the GPH could be strengthened: many countries are not interested, why, for example, was Australia not among them? The aim must be to attract more colleagues to the issues of Habitat.

Ali Riza Alaboyun regretted that few parliamentarians from developed countries commit themselves. He pointed to the different problems in different regions of the world and called for different responses to different problems such as earthquakes, tsunamis and floods.

Margaret Zziwa suggested sending all the position papers of the GPH to all parliaments to ensure that they are accessible to all.

Markandey Rai, when asked by Peter Götz, assured that he would send the addresses of all Presidents of Parliaments to the General Secretariat by e-mail.

Peter Götz pointed out that soon there will be a new website of the GPH on the Internet, where all documents will be made available. There will also be references to new information from UN-Habitat. All available reports will be posted on the Website.

Dr Abubakar Garba Shehu Matazu criticized that UN-Habitat concentrates only on the ministries. The legislators were not taken into account. Parliaments are disregarded by UN-Habitat. The Nigeria-based UN officials had neither resources nor any information. He criticized the communication gap, which must be closed by UN Habitat. He also requested that the issue of rural depopulation and the strengthening of development in rural areas be given attention to. This would contribute to disentangling the problems in the mega cities.

4. Welcome, Dr. Markandey Rai, Coordinator GPH, UN-Habitat

Markandey Rai gave a speech on behalf of Executive Director Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, who was prevented from coming to the meeting. It is attached in **Appendix 2**. He assured the GPH that they play a prominent role for UN-Habitat. This is borne out by their inclusion in the World Urban Forum V in Rio de Janeiro. In addition, there is a strategy paper on the work of UN-Habitat with parliamentarians. It is available on the website of UN-Habitat. He distributed it (see **Appendix 3**). Since none of the parliamentarians present had knowledge of the paper, the discussion on it was postponed.

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

Peter Götz informed everyone about the decision of the Board of Directors to hold the 6th World Forum of the GPH on 18 and 19 March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, before the start of the World Urban Forum V (WUF5).

Peter Götz suggests that three workgroups or panels should discuss the following three topics under the overall theme of "Sustainable Urbanisation":

- Climate Change
- City for All
- Urban-Rural Linkages

A "Declaration of Rio" will be presented in the subsequent week during the WUF5. The city of Rio de Janeiro will be the host of the conference. The conference will take place in the City Hall (Camara Municipal) of Rio de Janeiro, which is close to the conference venue of the WUF5. Colleague Eliomar Coelho will be in charge of the organizational arrangements in close cooperation with the General Secretariat of the GPH.

Peter Götz also informed everyone that Croatia was interested in hosting the 2011 Global Forum of the Parliamentarians and that on 5 October 2009 the Board of Directors decided to organize the Global Forum together with the European Forum in Zadar, Croatia, in early 2011. Jerko Rosin will discuss the details with the Croatian Parliament and the City of Zadar.

The African colleagues want to carry out the next Forum for Africa in Nigeria or Uganda, venue and date still need to be determined.

6. Preparation for the World Urban Forum IV (WUF5), 22 to 26 March 2010, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Markandey Rai pointed out the WUF5 in Rio de Janeiro and the planned Round Table of Parliamentarians on 23 March 2010. He distributed the provisional programme. Margaret Zziwa suggested renaming the Round Table "Round Table of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat", in order to call attention to the organization of parliamentarians more clearly. She also demanded, together with Dr. Matazu and other parliamentarians, that the President should speak a short greeting on behalf of the GPH at the opening ceremony to emphasize the importance of parliamentarians and their difference compared to other NGOs.

Margaret Zziwa suggested that the Global Forum of the GPH be incorporated into the programme of UN-Habitat, similar to the events "World Urban Youth"

and "Gender Equity Action" (19 and 20 March 2010). This way other participants will be informed at an early stage about the activities of the Global Forum.

Peter Götz was asked to submit these suggestions to Dr. Tibaijuka and ask her to take into account the legitimate concerns of the GPH. He assured he would keep the colleagues present informed.

7. Summary by Peter Goetz, President

Peter Goetz thanked the parliaments present for their constructive participation during the past two days. He suggested advertising for the Global Forum of the GPH and the WUF5 in Rio.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Participant List

Appendix 2: Speech of Markandey Rai

Appendix 3: Strategy Paper on Working with Parliamentarians

Hon Peter Goetz, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat,

Ms. Axumite Gebre, from the UN-Habitat,

Senator Eloy Cantu Segovia, Vice-president, on the activities of the GPH in America,

Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon, Vice-president, on the activities of the GPH in Asia,

Hon Margaret Zziwa, Vice-president, on the activities of the GPH in Africa,

Honorable members of the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarian on Habitat,

Honorable Members of Parliament,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President,

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for inviting me to participate at the Meeting of the GPH Board of Directors in this beautiful representative city of the entire globe, Washington D.C., U.S.A.

I here by represent the President of the European Parliamentarians on Habitat, Mr. Traian Constantin Igas. ***"I express my gratitude for all of you who made this conference possible. Following last year's meeting in Bucharest and continuing to this spring's conference held in Brussels, I've noticed an increasing interest about habitat matters coming from European governments. Since GPH started its works we managed to change perspectives on how national legislation should combine efforts with international laws providing us a better world we all deserve to live in."***

The topic of the meeting „Good laws for a better Habitat” is of extremely importance in this actual context worldwide spread. Of course I am referring to the global crisis which easily oversteps boundaries and involves the issue of solidarity. We, the European Board of Directors of the GPH, at the meeting in Brussels, on March 4 2009, had foreseen some major challenges which need dealing with an extreme caution. Here, Mr. Peter Goetz remarked that the **continuity** issue is a real challenge for GPH, taking into consideration the former MPs, who can still be GPH members, but it is obviously more difficult for them to attend GPH meetings all around the world.

Mr. Jerko Rosin referred to the legislative work in Croatian Parliament. It is an intense work, many new laws being aligned with the EU, and many country-specific laws being enforced. This phenomenon is approximately the same in all the new EU member states. In Turkey, Mrs. Mrs Birnur Şahinoglu, representative for Mr. Yazer Ozdalga, presented the study carried in Turkey regarding the improvement of citizens conditions of living in rural areas especially. Hon Peter Götz talked about the new ecologist projects actually on debate in Germany. New environmental regulations in Germany – some of which are still not enforced – are dealing with relationship between financial crisis and energy efficiency, and between crisis and climate change investments and programs.

We agreed on two issues: climate changes are perhaps the most difficult challenge facing humanity and the city pollution can be stopped only by reducing the population, by making better conditions for the people living in rural areas – a better infrastructure, so they no longer migrate to the cities.

Taking into consideration the comparative study, one of the main findings of the study is that compared to the Western Europe, Eastern European countries have more privately owned housing and in this case it would be easier to regulate and enforce certain laws.

The Eastern European countries present substantial differences coming from their past, the socialist past, and their present, as new EU member states. With all these drawbacks, these states do cover a wide range of goals and principles of the Habitat Agenda:

- ✓ *The majority of the East European states pass the principle of environmental protection in their constitutions.*
- ✓ *The East European states implemented the instruments in the field of action „youth” and „social security & health” the basic regulations have a certain relevance in practice.*
- ✓ *Finally, the Habitat Agenda sub-goal, economically sustainable development implies the existence of local taxes on real estate, entitled to the municipalities, which takes an important role on community financing.*

Our aim, based on the Bucharest 2008 Declaration „Good laws for a better life in cities”, is to work together regarding the implementation of statutory measures to bring about sustainable worldwide settlement development and adequate shelter for all, as well as well-managed cities

fit for the future. The climate-related challenges for cities and energy-policy issues are at the top of the agenda in this context.

Following the principles recognized in the mentioned Declaration, in April 2008, in Bucharest, we have had two workshops regarding the transposition of the goals of the Habitat Agenda into national law and the climate changes and its impact on cities.

- ✓ The workshop called “*Changing climate and its impact on cities*” took into consideration city environment. Following the opening lecture about “*Critic places in Bucharest’s metropolitan area and its climate changes*”, held by Dr. Ines Grigorescu research assistant from the Geographical Institute of the Romanian Academy, the participants concentrated their discussions among seven major issues:
 1. The concept of metropolitan area in Romania and laws concerning the issue;
 2. Critic places in Bucharest’s metropolitan area;
 3. Natural, climate, hydrological, technological, industrial and biological hazards;
 4. Hydro technical damage hazards;
 5. Waste management and its long term negative impact on the environment;
 6. Critical areas in Bucharest’s surroundings
 7. The atrophic impact of Bucharest’s metropolitan development and its unfavorable consequences on the environment and human living.
- ✓ Another workshop held during the Bucharest April 2008 meeting was about “*Implementing the objectives and principals of the Habitat Agenda, adopted at Istanbul 1996 meeting, in the national legislation of Germany, Finland, Holland, Romania and Turkey*”.

In conclusion, we have to consider the city as a whole, because the urban landscape forms the identity of a city and we reaffirm our willingness to promote active and decisive involvement of parliamentarians, in harmony with the points contained in the Habitat Agenda.

I thank you for your kind attention!

A STRATEGY PAPER ON WORKING WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS



UN-HABITAT

STRATEGY PAPER

Engaging parliamentarians

OVERVIEW

Human settlements is a State subject; every State is responsible for the formulation of policy with regard to programmes and approaches for effective implementation of human settlements schemes, particularly those pertaining to the poor, marginalized and disadvantaged of society. The UN-HABITAT's Partners and Youth Section is responsible for partnering with parliamentarians in the formulation of policies and strategies to create and strengthen a self-reliant management capacity at both national and local levels.

This strategy paper gives:

- An overview of the UN-HABITAT and human settlements with a specific bias on its Partners and Youth Section,
- Outlines the role of Parliamentarians in the achieving sustainable human settlements,
- Recommendations on ways in which the Partners and Youth Section can partner with Parliamentary associations and Parliamentarians in achieving the sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world.

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4. Prof. Banji Oyelaran- Oyeyinka - Director Monitoring and Research Division
5. Mr. Raf Tuts - Chief of UN-Habitat's Training and Capacity Building Branch.
6. Mr. S. Anantha krishnan,-Chief, Partners and Youth Section
7. Ms. Wandia Seaforth- Human Settlements Officer, Best Practices Programme
8. Mr. Markandey Rai– Chief, Parliamentarians Unit
9. Ms. Lucia Kiwala- Chief, Gender Mainstreaming Unit

3. INTRODUCTION

Today 6 billion people are living in cities and the world is facing unprecedented growth of urban population, mainly in the developing countries. Although many governments have adopted a resolution containing a Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements, the sustainability of human settlements is yet to be achieved.

Parliamentarians work impacts on issues of land, sanitation and water, security, health, public transport, education, social security, agriculture, immigration policy and housing.

Parliamentary decision-making in each domain will have a direct or indirect effect on the extent to which people enjoy their political, civil, economic, social, cultural, or collective rights.

The UN-HABITAT over the years has been mandated for the improvement of human settlements; however, they have largely worked with the Ministries, and other Executive Institutions, Local Government Authorities and NGO's. This paper is a realization of the need to work more closely with parliamentarians, as the law makers, parliamentarians, are indispensable partners in the achievement of sustainable human settlements developments.

4. BACKGROUND

UN-HABITAT

“There are many billions of people suffering from a lack of affordable housing – all the facilities which make our life decent. We must work together and generate the political will to have a smooth implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and I will work very closely, and harder than before.”

Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General, during a 2007 visit to the overcrowded slum of Kibera in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

World War II left many cities in Europe and Asia destroyed and many people homeless and without shelter; the United Nations led a shelter programme that involved the distribution of blankets and later developed a housing programme in New York in 1950. During the late 1960s, environmental degradation threatened the destruction of flora and fauna becoming an urgent international cause.

The UN took the lead in convening its first major global Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972 at a time when the UN General Assembly had expressed concern at the “deplorable world housing situation. The issue was taken up as priority by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and UN Center for Housing, Building and Planning (CHBP), leading up to the HABITAT I conference held in Vancouver in 1976. At this time, urbanization and its impact were barely on the radar screen of a United Nations created just three decades earlier when two-thirds of humanity was still rural. However, by 1976 the world had witnessed the greatest and fastest migration into cities and towns in history and one-third of the world's people were by then living in cities.

Vancouver 1976 comprised two parallel meetings: the official conference of UN Member States and the non-governmental organization (NGO) Habitat Forum. Both meetings debated the causes and consequences of urbanization that were manifesting globally through squatter settlements, slums, lack of access to land, water, sanitation, infrastructure, or jobs. The formal and informal HABITAT debates in 1976 underscored that no-one can solve human settlement problems alone; that it required strong and continuing partnerships between all institutions of

government(especially local authorities),NGOs, the private sector, together with all relevant UN agencies.

The outcome of the conference was the creation of the UN Commission on Human Settlements (CHS) and its Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS) putting all human settlements programmes under one agency. The Center became a substantive legacy and focal point for research and follow-up to HABITAT '76.

Twenty years after 1976, the UN Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) from 3 – 14 June 1996, also called the City Summit, convened in Istanbul, Turkey followed by a review meeting, the Istanbul+5 conference in New York five years later in which the mandate, status, role and functions of UNCHS were strengthened. In 2002, based on a General Assembly resolution 56/206, the status of UNCHS was elevated to a programme, now called the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT).

The operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) are focused on supporting governments in the formulation of policies and strategies to create and strengthen a self-reliant management capacity at both national and local levels, by providing technical and managerial expertise for the assessment of human settlements development constraints and opportunities, the identifying and analyzing policy options, in the design and implementation of housing and urban development projects; and in the mobilization of national resources, as well as in external support for improving human settlement conditions.

This national capacity-building process involves not only central government institutions but also stakeholders such as community-based and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, as well as Local Governments and Municipalities. Emphasis is also being placed upon strengthening governments' monitoring capacities in human settlement management.

▪ World Urban Forum (WUF)

The World Urban Forum is an important event for civil society and non-governmental organizations that work in the area of urban development as it provides them with a platform to express their views, share knowledge and strengthen their capacity to address issues of sustainable urbanization.

WUF1: The First World Urban Forum was held from 29 April-3 May 2002, in Nairobi, Kenya. The overall theme was sustainable urbanization. Discussions also focused on: the effect of HIV/AIDS on human settlements; violence against women; basic services and infrastructure, including provision of water and sanitation; and the need for secure tenure.

WUF2: The Second World Urban Forum took place in Barcelona, Spain, from 13-17 September 2004. Participants discussed progress in achieving Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals on environmental sustainability, including Target 10 on water and sanitation, and Target 11 on slums. Participants also addressed gender equality, urban culture, poverty, safety, disaster preparedness and reconstruction.

WUF3: convened in Vancouver, Canada from Monday, 19 June to Friday, 23 June 2006 under the theme of "Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action." it marked the 30th anniversary of the first UN Conference on Human Settlements, which was also held in Vancouver and led to the creation of UN-HABITAT

WUF4: was held from 3-6 November 2008, in Nanjing (China) with “Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development” as its main theme.

The WUF is used as an advocacy platform for UN-HABITAT to implement the Habitat Agenda and promote sustainable urbanization and adequate shelter for all. The results, ideas, outcomes and lessons learned during the WUF are used to sharpen the focus and improve the performance of UN-HABITAT’s work programme including the MTSIP. The WUF is aligned with the priorities of the MTSIP. Their objectives are mutually reinforcing in that they both seek to strengthen a shared vision and understanding of sustainable urbanization amongst networks of Habitat Agenda partners.

At the 4th World Urban Forum, the roundtable meeting of parliamentarians addressed cities and climate change and the role of parliamentarians. This meeting realized the need for preventive action and planning to offset effects of climate change through mass action. Parliamentarians were sensitized on their responsibility to create public awareness and develop political goodwill towards harmonious urbanization.

▪ **Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP)**

This MTSIP is a representation of the UN-HABITAT’s response and contribution to the UN system wide reform and coherence that is driven by the commitment to partnership. MTSIP is aimed at creating the necessary conditions for concerted international and national efforts to stabilize the growth of slums and to set stage for the subsequent reduction in and reversal of the number of slum dwellers. It emphasizes on Advocacy and partnerships that involve education, communication and evidence based information as effective tools of realizing sustainable human settlements development and implementing the Habitat Agenda.

MTSIP has two main focus areas; Focus Area 1, centres on the active participation of the Habitat Agenda partners as the key to achievement of sustainable urbanization where sustainable urbanization is the fundamental principle driving towards making and implementation of development policy. Focus Area 6, centres on identification of keys areas of empowerment related to organizational and staff competencies towards the achievement of the overall mandate of the UN-Habitat

5. PARTNERS AND YOUTH SECTION

The Partners and Youth Section formerly the NGO Unit of the UN-HABITAT, became in September 2002 when the latter was upgraded to the Partners and Youth Section. The section reports to the Executive director through the Research and Monitoring Division and works closely with all divisions, branches and regional offices in order to promote high quality and continuous engagement of partners in the UN-HABITAT’s work. The Section deals specifically with the Civil Society Organizations and other Habitat Agenda Partners and takes an active role in implementing the youth programmes of the UN-HABITAT.

The main function of the Section include:-

- a) Promote the participation of the UN-HABITAT agenda partners in implementing activities towards the achievement of the MDGS and Habitat Agenda.
- b) Enhancing policy synthesis and dialogue.
- c) Facilitating political and social mobilization
- d) Facilitating the development of the full potential of youth in human settlements.

Youth and children constitute more than half of the world's population. Living in mostly urban areas, they constitute one of the largest groups that are adversely affected by unsustainable urban development patterns. Nevertheless it should be remembered that youth with their energy, creativity, idealism and passion have the potential to help overcome problems we face today and tomorrow youth are key partners for implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

In response to the UN Secretary General's initiative on youth employment, particularly with a view to developing a Global Partnership Initiative on Urban Youth Development and to establish an interim youth consultative mechanism, UN Agencies began to include youth in their programmatic objectives.

For the UN-HABITAT to achieve the objective of improving the quality of human settlements and targets 10 and 11 of the MDG 7 of integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes, there was need to enhance the engagement of youth in urban governance and address the problem of youth at risk, by focusing on capacity-building and poverty alleviation. The Partners and Youth Section was therefore formed in order to develop a strategy of enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of UN-HABITAT. The Unit has since extended to include other partners both inside and outside of Governments.

- **Partners and Youth Section and Human Settlements**

The Partners and Youth Section has partnerships with local authorities, civil society organizations, parliamentarians, and profit based entities. Being at the level of governance closest to the people, local authorities play a vital role in educating, mobilizing and responding to the public to promote sustainable urbanization. Partnering with the NGOs and CBOs i.e. the civil society organizations helps involvement of the marginalized groups that have been left out by government in development. The parliamentarians being the legislative body of societies help in facilitating legislation that supports human settlement development.

- **The Local Government and Human Settlements**

Local governments are important players in the area of environment and heritage management, they have the responsibility to protect the environment, plan future landscapes, provide infrastructure, manage natural resources, and conserve or manage cultural heritage through a variety of mechanisms. Many local governments have adopted the Local Agenda 21- an approach that involves implementing the tools of strategic and participatory planning, capacity building of the local actors, local consultations- and setting up and implementing the projects in a bid to help local authorities in secondary town to achieve more sustainable development. The Unit has been and continues to partner with the Local Governments/ Authorities in helping them with strategies and advice on meeting housing needs.

6. PARTNERING WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS

- **What is partnership?**

Partnership is engagement of like minded organizations/institutions by seeking their active participation and cooperation with a view to pool wisdom, skills, knowledge towards achieving a common goal. This brings about complementary actions among like-minded organizations and mutual support of the common objectives hence a reduced cost of implementation. Parliamentarians are the elected representatives of the people in all their diversities, they have a responsibility to influence and help shape government policy. A partnership between the UN-

HABITAT and parliamentarians would help facilitate drafting and amendment of legislation and the restructuring of institutions and structures that supports human settlements development.

- **What is Strategic Partnership?**

Strategic partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships between the government, private sector, civil society and other organizations in which participants work together to achieve a common purpose or to undertake a specific task, sharing risks, responsibilities, resources, competencies and benefits while committing to mutual accountability. UN-HABITAT is involved in several strategic partnerships that advance the Habitat Agenda and that help in achievement of Millennium Development Goals.

These partnerships must be:-

1. Efficient and effective
2. Transparent and accountable.
3. Diverse and Representative
4. Addressing the UN-HABITAT mandate.

- **UN-HABITAT and Parliamentarians**

UN-HABITAT appreciates the value of Parliamentarians as important and vibrant partners in promoting the cause of adequate Shelter for all at the national and global levels. UN-HABITAT particularly recognizes the role of parliamentarians in promoting international cooperation and understanding which is an area that still require increased commitment from the international community.

Given the magnitude of the challenges that human settlements pose, society must value and take advantage of the wisdom, knowledge and skills of every person. Sustainable human settlements development requires cooperative and complementary actions among interested parties. Increasing the involvement of Parliamentarians in preventing environmental degradation, promoting sustainable development and reducing threats to security is critical. Achieving sustainable development and alleviating poverty require the integration of economic, social and political objectives into a coherent overall framework. As the world becomes increasingly urban, it is essential for political will to make cooperation possible between governments, Local Authorities, private sectors, NGOs and professional groups. It is the political representatives of the people in Parliaments who provide this necessary bridge.

- **Role of parliaments**

Parliament is a vital institution in promoting good governance. In fact, governance goals of greater accountability, transparency and participation are directly related to the primary functions of parliament which include:

- a) making policies and laws;
- b) overseeing the executive and
- c) Representing citizens.

While parliament does not operate in isolation from the Executive, the Judiciary and the wider society, it is the relations among these that provide the overall governance framework of a given country.

▪ **Rationale of working with Parliamentarians**

Parliamentarians debate and approve the national budget that includes funding for services and projects set up by each country in various sectors. It is often called upon to ratify international agreements and translate them into national legislation as well as generate laws of its own initiative. Parliaments are also responsible for overseeing the executive branch of government and making sure that it lives up to its policy commitments.

Parliamentarians have been elected to represent the people in all their diversity. They have a responsibility to influence and help shape government policy. They monitor international negotiations and are in close contact with government negotiators. In many instances it is parliament that grants the negotiating mandate. Here again, much important work takes place in the legislature and is intrinsically linked to the institution's agenda.

Parliamentarians can utilize the opportunities through debate and question to ensure that policy is focused on delivering the development of adequate human settlement. The Backbenchers can speed the process of response to their questions by keeping the ministers on their toes with demand of updates.

Most parliaments have structured Committees that deal with different legislative and policy matters. UN-HABITAT will find that engaging with and building the capacity of the Committees that deal with Housing, Land, Environment, Water, Health and Sanitation will go a long way in accelerating bills for legislation on human settlements issues.

UN-HABITAT typically works more directly with the executive arm of government while most programmatic initiatives tend to get stuck in Ministries, actual delivery is in the making of laws and policies which is a preserve of Parliament, while the application and interpretation of laws is the work of the judicial system hence the need to partner with the three arms of government. In order to approach human settlement in a holistic manner, it is imperative to engage the three arms of Government equally by:-

- a) Organizing training workshops for the parliamentarians.
- b) Drafting model legislation on human settlements from which parliamentarians can borrow from.
- c) Lobby for serious steps on human settlements related cases in Courts.

▪ **Challenges of working with parliamentarians**

The nature of elections in Kenya makes it unlikely for a parliamentarian to serve for two consecutive terms or more since the voters dictate who their representative in parliament becomes. This has resulted in high turn over of parliamentarians in most parliaments. New parliamentarians affect the continuity of projects or progress of draft legislation is delayed while they acquaint themselves with the ongoing projects and familiarize with the rationale and aims.

Parliamentarians also have limited time to go through reference materials and therefore any material that is for their use should be brief and easy to read. Information and statistics should be put in a way that Members of Parliament can understand.

Being an educated professional is not among the requirements to be a member of parliament in most countries, even though legislation should be made from a point of knowledge. This leads to a dearth in viable policies and laws and sluggishness to move bills where issues are not clearly understood. Materials and engagement with Members of Parliament should therefore not be academic but based on practical experiences coming out of their own constituencies.

Further, although democratization of governments swept the world over in the 1990s, the development of good governance remains a challenge, particularly with Parliaments, many of whom are not fully independent and rely on the Executive arm to bring information and ideas to the Floor. There is need to create a linkage between the concepts of good governance and service delivery by Parliamentarians in order to have effective oversight of Governments on human settlement.

▪ **Parliamentarians and Human Settlements**

It is crucial for the Section's Parliamentarians Unit to partners with parliamentarians since parliaments are the institutions through which the biggest leverage with government can be reached.

Essentially the Members of Parliament are a huge determinant on whether projects to enhance human settlements are funded or not or if they are even discussed at all. This is because Parliament is the organ that debates and approves the national budget that includes contributions to international organizations and Local Authorities by providing funds for their programmes and disbursements for services and projects set up by each country to implement international agreements and national policies. Although UN-HABITAT has and continues to partner with community based organizations and the private sector, the role of this primary policy making Institution cannot be underestimated.

All humans have certain rights, and the government, traditionally has an obligation to protect these rights. The right to housing is a fundamental function of the state throughout its history has been to ensure the individual and collective safety and security of its citizens wherever they might reside or visit.

A Member of Parliament is the constituents' representative in Parliament, S/he receives and deals with many requests for assistance which could concern transport, local councils, environmental issues, youth and community services, the police, and objections to land tax and water and sewerage rates.

Parliamentarians are very crucial in the field of human settlement because they unlike other partners can influence formulation and revision of public policies, the enactment of laws and regulation and strengthening of the capacity of public institution at all levels.

A Member of Parliament is the link between the people, legislature and the executive and is responsible to ensure that the government protects the rights of his electorate by providing essential services. S/he represents the citizens, by making contribution towards the formulation of policy. They are elected representatives of the people, and it is of enormous benefit when they can address the gaps in laws and policies that affect those they represent.

- **Components of human settlements which affect parliamentarians directly.**

a. Shelter including; slums, low cost housing, security of tenure and eviction

The right to adequate shelter has been recognized and enshrined in numerous international instruments and conventions, supported by most governments around the world. Most notable among these are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Access to adequate shelter is a universal right, meaning it is an entitlement that should be accessible to all people: young, old women, men, rich and poor. Access to safe and healthy shelter and basic services is essential to all people's physical, psychological, social and economic well - being.

Homelessness and lack of adequate shelter is a common scene in many countries. In most developing countries, poverty, rapid urbanization, lack of housing credit facilities are among the reasons that cause lack of their rights; traditional practices and beliefs are some of the common problems particularly at grass root level that discriminate women. It is necessary to improve low income communities, to build and improve their living and housing conditions by providing education, training and technical assistance on land rights, housing construction, savings and credit schemes and self-help in both rural and urban areas.

It is the work of the parliamentarians to ensure that the laws are enacted to address these issues.

b. Land

Land is essential for the provision of food, water and energy for many living systems, and is critical to human activity. In rapidly growing urban areas, access to land is rendered increasingly difficult by the competing demands of housing, industry, commerce, infrastructure, transport, agriculture and the need for open spaces and green areas, and the protection of fragile ecosystems. There is need for specific urban and regional policies providing for legal, economic, financial, cultural and other measures. Innovative methods need to be created for urban planning, design, development, revitalization and management.

When developing housing and urban policies, Parliamentarians can ensure that the adopted framework is based on land property rights which recognize security of tenure especially to the urban poor. In case eviction of persons is being considered, the Member of Parliament should ensure that it is done according to the law without rendering individuals' homeless or violating their basic human rights.

c. Transport

Transport is the structural elements of an economy that facilitate the flow of goods and services between buyers and sellers it includes such assets as roads, railways, airports, ports, power systems and telephones.

Parliamentarians are the leading force to help develop the infrastructure by mobilizing local and international resources. They can introduce regulatory legislation as well as lobby for support by the citizens of their countries living abroad in development of their country of origin either by providing capital or the much needed talent and skills.

d. Water and Sanitation

In addition to the urgent problems of cities in the developing world, increased water scarcity and insufficient attention are being given to sanitation, hygiene and wastewater treatment.

In order to provide safe water for all and proper sanitation, Parliamentarians and other stakeholders must move the sanitation crisis to the top of the parliamentary agenda. They must ensure that policies and institutions for water supply and sanitation service delivery, as well as for water resources management and development, respond equally to the different roles, needs, and priorities. Legislation on water and sanitation target must focus on sustainable service delivery, rather than construction of facilities alone.

e. HIV/AIDS

Given the oversight role of Parliaments with regard to budget expenditure, parliamentarians can:

- a) Enact legislation that protects the rights of those affected and infected by HIV and AIDS;
- b) Oversee the proper implementation of national HIV and AIDS programmes, including the supervision of the proper allocation of resources;
- c) Advocate against the stigma of HIV and AIDS and promote greater awareness of the disease.

■ How the Parliamentarians Unit can partner with Parliamentarians?

1. Most parliamentary work is done in the specified Parliamentary committees and these should be the unit's target, the Unit could organize capacity building seminars and invite relevant committees to sensitize them on their role in provision of adequate human settlements as well as work directly with the committees.
2. The Unit could create a network of the chairs of the parliamentary committees whose mandate relates to human settlements. This could allow for parliaments to learn from other parliaments on what is being done elsewhere, especially if the meetings are held in different member countries every other time. E.g. best practice parliaments.
3. Invite parliamentarians to educative forums on Human Settlement and provide a wide range of relevant information of potential interest to the parliamentarians.
4. In many instances the statistics of the UN-HABITAT and the statistics that Members of Parliament work with differs, it is necessary for the accurate and actual statistics to be availed to the MPs.
5. Work with parliaments to intensify efforts to enhance the role of youth in decision-making processes. Through the establishment and the support of youth councils or parliaments, the cooperation between youth, civil society organizations and the governments at all levels should be further developed. In order to ensure broad participation of youth, governance should be made attractive to young people.
6. The Unit could organize training for the new parliamentarians.
7. The Unit could work with parliamentary groups such as Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, Common Wealth Parliamentary association, AWEPA and the Inter Parliamentary Union.

■ Strengthening parliamentarians to effectively deal with human settlements and MDGs

1. Parliamentarians can be linked with the Universities which have different departments e.g. a strategic planning department; this could help to inform and advise the

- parliamentarians on actual facts and the implication of constructions already constructed or to be constructed towards sustainable human settlements.
- II. There should be interlinking between parliamentarians and the local government players in housing, water and sanitation.
 - III. Set up working groups for parliament and professional association for inter-sector consultations towards solutions.
 - IV. Allow for debate on model legislation and the option of adoption.
 - V. Develop a check list on the compliancy of the laws with the MDGs.
 - VI. UN-HABITAT Managers in different United Nations Development Program (UNDP) countries can study development policies in different countries and be used as link between parliaments.

▪ **How the Parliamentarians Unit can build the Capacity of Parliamentarians.**

- Working through Habitat Program Managers: The Unit could emphasize on the importance of re-introduction of UN-HABITAT Committees in countries with the aim of lobbying for a resolution of the governing council to restore the National Habitat Commissions that were in every country.
- The Governing Council adopted new procedures which allow the NGOs to take part in meetings in a consultative Status: The Unit could make recommendations for the involvement or representation of parliamentarian group in the Governing Council forums.
- Holistic approach: The Unit should work with other units of the UN-HABITAT in the development of capacity building materials to determine of what assistance specific units would be.
- Training Kits: There is need to develop training Kits for the parliamentarians based on best practices and to do capacity building and training of parliamentarians and local authority officers on human settlement. The Training and Capacity Building Branch of UN-HABITAT has been supporting local government capacity building for over fifteen years by building partnerships with national training and capacity building institutions, and working with them to undertake strategic planning workshops, development and dissemination of tools, adaptation of training materials to local and national contexts, and supporting national training activities. This methodology can also be used for Parliamentarians.
- Draft Legislation: The parliamentarians Unit could, in consultation with the Sections and other divisions, draft model legislation or generic bills that could be used by parliamentarians to formulate laws.

▪ **What should a law on the provision of the Human settlements cover?**

- Provide for adequate shelter for all through access to primary health care, clean water and sanitation, and primary education.
- Provide for security services designed to protect individuals and their property including police services, fire protection services, court services and prison services.
- Provide for adequate level of social services and a social environment which facilitates and encourages social cohesion, collective and individual responsibility aimed at lowering the overall and particular levels of violence in the communities.
- Enhance the level of services to improve occupational safety, safety on our seas, roads and in our airspace.

- Help track progress in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)
7. Experts from the UN-HABITAT's Partners and Youth Unit could identify and select a set of time-bound and measurable indicators. These indicators could include:-
- a) Financing of housing for over 1000 slum dwellers yearly.
 - b) Access to clean safe drinking water.
 - c) Availability of basic sanitation.
 - d) Community Participation.
 - e) Complete Settlement Recovery.

7. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATIONS

Apart from working with Parliaments in the different member countries of the UN, it is possible to influence how they work, through different global and regional associations to which they belong. Some of these important institutions include:

o Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH)

The Global Parliamentarians for Habitat was inaugurated in 1987 during the International year of shelter for the homeless in Yokohama. It is the only international parliamentary group that is committed exclusively to promoting the development of sustainable human settlements by maintaining close cooperation with UN-HABITAT. The group promotes international cooperation especially in the development and application of relevant legislation to enhance the implementation of the Habitat Agenda with the help of its regional councils.

The Group appreciates that to achieve the MDGs, good relations with parliamentarians with human settlements issue in their agenda is inevitable. In this regard it organizes conferences to review achievements of parliaments and make new strategies and programmes for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at regional and national levels. Parliamentarians have the role of ensuring that commitments made at Global Forums for Parliamentarians are kept.

Global Parliamentarians on Habitat could lobby for the formation of national groups of Parliamentarians on Habitat in each country, to promote and/or examine ways of assisting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as well as organize meetings for all national groups of Parliamentarians on Habitat to facilitate the exchange of information and experience.

• The World Urban Forum (WUF) and the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH).

In collaboration with the parliamentarians of the World Urban Forum hosting country, the group organizes a parliamentarian's roundtable a session that provides parliamentarians an opportunity to take stock of key successes and their challenges in their contribution to human settlements.

The WUF IV roundtable strengthened the working relations between the GPH and the UN-HABITAT and brought out a positive aspect of globalization. The parliamentarians present underscored importance of legislation that was favourable for sustainable urbanization and felt that:-

1. Parliamentarians should use their oversight role to ensure resources are used for the intended purpose.
2. They should be pro active in ensuring that the policies they enact are implemented and adequate budgetary allocations are made.

The GPH should promote dialogue at all levels, together with the exchange of experience and the collections of “good practice” since this are highly important in engaging parliamentarians.

- **Achievements of the GPH**

1. The GPH has organized five global fora of parliamentarians and several regional councils that have been used as platforms for parliamentarians to share success stories good practices and policy approaches.
2. It has maintained collaborative links with the Latin American and the European Parliaments.

- **The Inter Parliamentary Union**

IPU is the international organization of Parliaments of sovereign States (Article 1 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union). It was established in 1889. The Union is the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy. A hundred-fifty national parliaments are currently members of the IPU.

For the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the concept of sustainable development encompasses such other vital issues as human development, social and economic justice, and advancement of democracy. Protection of the environment has long been a concern of the IPU, and its actions in this field are carried out in the framework of sustainable development. The first world-wide Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Environment held in 1984, in Nairobi advocated the inclusion of environmental protection in the development process. Environmental problems, such as water, waste management or measures required to change consumption and production patterns have been considered by statutory Conferences of the Union.

The IPU supports the efforts of the United Nations, whose objectives it shares, and works in close co-operation with it. It also co-operates with regional inter-parliamentary organizations, as well as with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which are motivated by the same ideals.

- **Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA)**

AWEPA is an international organization that supports and strengthens effective functioning of parliaments in Africa and works to keep Africa high on the political agenda in Europe. AWEPA works to reduce poverty, improve livelihoods and defend human rights in promoting an African-European partnership.

While in partnership with the UN-HABITAT, AWEPA will serve as an umbrella body for parliamentary mobilization towards sustainable human settlements by promoting information exchange and sharing of new research, best practices and regional and thematic expertise. As medium between the Africa and Europe, a flourished parliamentary dialogue would create, implement and monitor concrete actions plans of parliamentarians and hence the revision of legislation and polices, budgets and oversight frameworks on sustainable human settlements.

Formulation of effective human settlement policies and strategies requires cooperation, consultation, negotiations and decision making at all levels of society. AWEPA helps facilitate cooperation between parliamentarians and decision makers as well as technical experts and other stakeholders.

○ **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (or as it was originally called, the Empire Parliamentary Association) was founded in 1911. Active CPA Branches now exist in 169 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments, with a total membership of approximately 16,000 Parliamentarians.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association strengthens the capacity of parliamentarians to play a leadership role in preparing their constituencies for addressing climate change as a human settlements issue through: -

- a) Organize workshops of technical experts to identify acceptable, scientifically-based, climate scenarios.
- b) Develop a programme of workshops to build technical capacities in member states in support of adaptation to climate change
- c) To support small states in accessing experts and teams of advisers to support national assessment and adaptation strategies.

The UN-HABITAT should seek and develop innovative approaches and frameworks for international cooperation in the development and management of human settlements so as to facilitate the active participation of all the parliamentary association in decision-making, policy formulation, implementation and evaluation and in the allocation of resources.

○ **The European Union**

The European Union (EU) is a union of twenty-seven independent states based on the European Communities and founded to enhance political, economic and social co-operation, formerly known as European Community (EC). Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the Council. Mr. Solana assists the Council in foreign policy matters, through contributing to the formulation, preparation and implementation of European policy decisions. He acts on behalf of the Council in conducting political dialogue with third parties.

The EU-UN relationship has widened significantly in recent years and now covers a network of co-operation spanning the range of EU external relations from conflict prevention to human rights, from development to humanitarian affairs, from trade to social and environmental matters.

UN- HABITAT could partner with the EU in facilitating the global exchange of information on adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development through forums in which parliamentarians exchange information on best practices.

○ **Pan African Parliament**

The Pan-African Parliament was established in March 2004, by Article 17 of The Constitutive Act of the African Union, as one of the nine Organs provided for in the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community signed in Abuja, Nigeria in 1991.

The establishment of the Pan-African Parliament is informed by a vision to provide a common platform for African peoples and their grass-roots organizations to be more involved in discussions and decision-making on the problems and challenges facing the continent. The parliamentary Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs; consider strategies and programmes for the improvement of the lives of African peoples; consider issues relating to regional and international cooperation in strategic planning and implementation of social development and health policies and programmes.

○ **East African Parliament**

The East African Community (EAC) is an intergovernmental organization comprising five east African countries. Currently, members of EAC are Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda.

There are many other similar institutions that can be found in Latin America and Asia.

• **How the Parliamentarian's Unit can work with parliamentary associations:**

- Participate in awareness-raising meetings on the basic facts of the situation of human settlements on how to advocate more effectively for legal and policy frameworks to better address sustainable settlements.
- Encourage political accountability by monitoring government compliance with international commitments and obligations and other measures.
- Initiate parliamentary debate on the level of budgetary resources available for development cooperation, and hold governments accountable for separate and additional resource allocation.
- Track and share information with parliamentarians on resource allocation to human settlements in best practice countries.
- Identify opportunities at international meetings to discuss positions of countries on human settlement with a view to assist them in improving their policies and to adapt good practices from other countries.
- Raise awareness and share information of the critical urgency and of related effects such as the real costs of water resources for food and crop production and of land clearances for food and crop production.

8. GENDER AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

UN-Habitat appreciates that women headed households form a high proportion of the population in many settlements and that lack of security of tenure affects millions of people across the world with women facing added risks and deprivations. In this regard, for the women's needs, along with those of men and children to be adequately met, women and men must participate equally in human settlements planning and management at community, local and national levels

Importantly, at the 19th session of the Governing Council; the participants agreed on the need to recognize the empowerment of women and their full and equal participation in political, social and economic life, the improvement of health and the eradication of poverty are essential to achieving sustainable human settlements (resolution 17/11 of 14 May 1999).

Further, the Global Plan of Action also chapter five of the Habitat Agenda calls for engendering of human settlements. It emphasizes on the need for co-operative and complementary actions among interested parties towards sustainable human settlements development. The mix of interested parties appropriate for participation may be different in each instance, depending on who has responsibility for or is affected by the topic being addressed. As a general matter, interested parties include women and men of all ages, Government at the appropriate level, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, business, labour and environmental organizations.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

General

- 1) Working jointly with parliamentary associations, the Unit could follow in the steps of UNEP's ecolx in developing a database for best practices in human settlements.
- 2) As a mechanism to gather best practices in legislation, the Unit could add as feedback for conferences of the UN-Habitat; a questionnaire that is inclusive of questions on legislation in represented countries.
- 3) Outline specific channels through which human settlements issues will be furthered or addressed in different parliaments and parliamentarians association e.g. European Union regional committee to reach the European Union.
- 4) Work with lobby groups and plan systematic approaches to committees; involve parliamentary staff in committee members' training to help perpetuate institutional capacity other than individual.
- 5) Identify NGOs and other Civil Society organizations working on human settlements; establish what has been done and where the Unit can partner with these organizations. Lobby for the involvement of women in human settlements concerns.

Human Resource

In engaging parliamentarians the Parliamentarians Unit will work closely with staff from all divisions, branches and regional offices in order to promote continuous engagement of the member's of parliament in the UN-HABITAT work.

1. The Monitoring and Research Division.
2. The Training and Capacity Building Branch of UN-HABITAT
3. Country and regional Management Offices.
4. Habitat Program Managers
5. Parliamentarians Unit.
 - a. The Parliamentarian's Unit is under staffed; there is need for additional staff responsible for different tasks within the Unit. There should be a member of staff to specifically oversee logistics.

Financial Resources

Organization and execution of the African and Asian Parliamentarian's Conferences in the recent past has been faced with financial impediments; there is need for adequate financial allocation for this conference.

10. SUCCESS CRITERIA

- 1) Development of strategy papers and a tracker of good practices in legislation on human settlements.
- 2) The Unit's staff to attend parliamentarian's workshops and conferences in a bid to network habitat agenda goals.
- 3) The Unit to keep a record of best practices in human settlements legislation and serve as an information clearing house during the draft legislation on human settlements.
- 4) The successful reorganization and revitalization of the African/Asian Chapter and a follow up on existing chapters; what legislation has been passed and is there in the pipeline.
- 5) Development of Action plans for countries and the guided implementation of these plans.
- 6) An updated database of parliamentarians that have been trained in various human settlements related issues.

- 7) An agreement signed with parliamentary associations for commitment to promote human settlements in their regions and member countries.
- 8) Revival of the African Parliamentarians Conference.

Schedule 1:

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES IN LEGISLATION DEVELOPMENT

Country	Constitution	Law	Provision
South Africa	Constitution (1996).		Enshrined the right to adequate housing.
Uganda	1995 Constitution		Confer security of tenure through ownership rights or perpetual lease rights on lawful and bona fide occupiers of land.
Finland	Art. 8(2) Act No. 380/1987).	Child Welfare Act (No. 683/1983	Mandates the Local Government Authorities to provide housing resources for the severely handicapped under certain circumstances. Requires that Local Government rectify inadequate housing conditions or, as the case may be, provide for housing when inadequate or non-existent housing causes the need for special child welfare or constitutes a substantial hindrance to the rehabilitation of the child or the family.
Korea		Housing Construction Promotion Act (1972)	Calls for provision of the construction and the supply of dwelling units for persons who lack housing.
United Kingdom		Homeless Persons Act (1977)	Mandates the Local Councils to provide accommodation to homeless families and homeless persons in priority need.
Bolivia			Mandates the Ministry of Human Development to promote the construction of subsidized housing.
Germany	Article 1(1), Articles 20(1) and 28(1)		Gives rise to the homeless person's subjective right to be allocated accommodation enabling her/him to lead a dignified existence.
New Zealand			Protects tenants against unfair eviction; and it provides housing for those on low incomes.
India		Slum Dwellers Protection Act	Confers tenure to landless persons in urban areas who had settled on land plots of less than 50sq metres for a prescribed period.
United States America		New York City Human Rights Law	The Law prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.
Sri Lanka			The constitution guarantees the right to adequate shelter.
Spain	Article 47		States that all Spaniards have the right to enjoy decent and adequate housing.
Belgium	Article 23(3)		Gives every citizen a right to enjoy a life in conformity with human dignity; the rights include the right to adequate housing.

Russia	Article 40(1)		States that each person has the right to housing. No one may be arbitrarily deprived of Housing.
Slovenia			The Constitution of Slovenia states that the state shall create opportunities for citizens to obtain adequate housing.
Argentina	Article 14bis,		The State shall grant the benefits of social security, which shall be comprehensive and unwaivable. In particular, the law shall establish: ... access to decent housing.
Nicaragua	Article 64		States that Nicaraguans have a right to decent, comfortable and safe housing that guarantees familial privacy.
Mexico	Article 4		States that every family has a right to enjoy decent and proper housing.
Armenia	Article 31		Entitles every citizen to an adequate standard of living, adequate housing and the State commits to enable the exercise of these rights.
Cambodia		Article 30 of the Land Law	Allows one who has occupied a piece of land peacefully and without consent for five years more to request definitive title to the land.
Philippines		Ejectment laws. Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter Finance Act; Urban Development and Housing Act	Rental Reform Act of 2002, Sec. 8. Prohibition Against Ejectment by Reason of Sale or Mortgage. – No leaser or his successor-in-interest shall be entitled to eject the lessee upon the ground that the leased premises have been sold or mortgaged to a third person regardless of whether the lease or mortgage is registered or not. Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared a policy of the State to undertake, in cooperation with the private sector, a continuing program of urban land reform and housing which will make available, at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas. Makes available to underprivileged and homeless citizens decent housing at affordable cost Provides for rational use and development of urban land; Regulates and directs urban growth and expansion towards a dispersed urban net and more balanced urban-rural interdependence.

Schedule 2:

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Useful Contacts

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