



7th Global Forum
Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
Zadar, Croatia, 18-20 May 2011

7th Global and European Forum of Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT (GPH), May 18-20/2011, Zadar, Croatia

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) is an international organization of parliamentarians who are dedicated to the sustainable development of human settlements. The GPH was founded in 1987 in Yokohama, Japan, with the support of the United Nations agency UN HABITAT. Its Rules of Procedure were officially adopted in 1992 in Vancouver, Canada.

The primary objective of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat is to promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda adopted by UN-HABITAT and its member states in 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Habitat Agenda is a global plan of action setting out strategies for adequate, sustainable development in the area of shelter and human settlements.

The parliamentarians of the GPH have set themselves the **goal** of ensuring that governments increasingly address sustainability issues. In addition, they intend to bring their influence to bear on decision-making processes in order to foster coordinated action by governments, communities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. Through the international network of parliamentarians, the goals of the Habitat Agenda are advocated in the individual national parliaments and efforts to achieve these goals are actively encouraged.

The work of the GPH worldwide is coordinated and organized by the Board of Directors of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat. The President of the GPH – Hon. Peter Götz of Germany - is also the President of the Board of Directors. He is supported in the discharge of his functions by Vice Presidents, who are simultaneously presidents of the regional GPH councils by continents. There are regional GPH groups for the continents of Africa, America, Asia and Europe.

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat meet regularly at **regional and global forums** that are organized jointly with the parliaments of the respective host countries. There they address issues associated with the sustainable development of human settlements. Since holding their first Global Forum in Istanbul in 1996, Global Forums of the GPH have been held in the following countries:

1998 in Cancún, Mexico
2000 in Manila, Philippines
2003 in Berlin, Germany
2005 in Rabat, Morocco
2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Following the decision of the GPH Board of Directors of March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro reaffirmed by the Board's decision of October 2010 in Beijing, **the host of the next Global Forum will be the town of Zadar in Croatia.** The Forum will take place **May 18-20/2011.** Parallel with the global meeting of parliamentarians, European GPH Forum will take place in Zadar as well. Regional branch organizations of Global Parliamentarians will also have the opportunity to organize their own meetings under the auspices of the Global Forum. The expected outcome of the Conference will be, among other things, the Zadar Declaration.

7th Global Forum of Habitat Parliamentarians will take place in the premises of the Zadar University, situated in the historic part of this culturally rich Mediterranean town. Main conference will be followed by side-events: workshops dedicated to the theme of how to balance the environmental, economic and social domains of development.

We hope to have fruitful parliamentarian and expert sessions in Zadar next year and wish to further enlarge the circle of the UN-HABITAT. We are therefore kindly asking you to join us in 2011 in Zadar, under the slogan "Good Laws for a Better Habitat".

Yours sincerely,

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Vice-President GPH Europe



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