



EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**REPORT OF EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
CONFERENCE ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL'S AND
THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE GLOBAL
PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT**

**THEME : *PARLIAMENTARIANS AS KEY PARTNERS IN
THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDG'S AND THE
HABITAT AGENDA: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
OF THE GPH***

DATE : 19TH – 20TH AUGUST 2013

**VENUE : EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADQUARTERS
ARUSHA, TANZANIA**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), in partnership with the Global Parliamentarian on Habitat (GPH), held a Conference on the Millennium Development Goal's (MDG's) from 19th – 20th August 2013 at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha Tanzania. The Conference, which also marked the 25th Anniversary Celebrations of the Global Parliaments on Habitat (GPH), was attended by 150 participants including EALA Members, Members of National Parliaments in the East African Community (EAC) and the African continent, United Nations (UN) bodies as well as the Civil Society.

The conference programme and list of participants/resource persons is attached at Annex 1 and Annex II of this Report respectively.

1.1 BACKGROUND

The EALA as a regional Parliament is one of the seven Organs of the EAC that performs the legislative, representation and oversight functions of the Community. It is mandated under Article 49 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC to legislate and exercise oversight over all matters within the scope of the EAC. The Treaty, under Article 7 (2), espouses the principle of good governance, including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, social justice and the maintenance of universal rights such as the provision of housing to the citizenry.

The GPH, on the other hand, is a forum for parliamentarians from UN member states under the auspices of the UN Habitat, whose membership has committed itself to advocate for better laws to take care of planned cities, adequate resources to housing, decent and affordable housing and access to land. The members of the GPH have dedicated themselves to ensure that they cause governments to increasingly address sustainability issues in the housing sector especially within the context of effective urban development and local government.

In line with the resolution of the GPH meeting held in Italy in 2012, EALA was honoured and privileged to host the 25th GPH Anniversary Celebrations for Africa. It is the foregoing context that the EALA organized the Conference the exchange of views on the MDG's as well as an Exhibition to showcase developments and achievements in urban land management; architectural services; water and sanitation technologies; estates management and housing technology as part of the celebrations to mark the silver jubilee of GPH. The occasion was also used to arrange side activities including tree planting and an excursion around Arusha city.

1.2 CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the Conference was to provide a platform to reflect on how far governments have gone in the implementation of each of the MDG targets with specific reference to the MDG 11 "Shelter for all by 2015". The specific objectives of the Conference were:

- (i) To celebrate 25 years of existence of the GPA and show case significant achievements, challenges still ahead and come up with feasible solutions and way forward;
- (ii) To bring influence to bear on the decision making processes in order to foster coordinated action by government, communities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations; and
- (iii) To raise awareness on the need for adequate housing and affordable settlements.

1.3 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes from the Conference include:

- (i) Strengthening collaboration and networking on enhancing urban development strengthened;
- (ii) Increasing awareness and knowledge in the area of housing and urban development and local government increased;

- (iii) Laying strategies for adequate, sustainable development in the area of shelter and human settlement articulated and adopted; and
- (iv) Exchanging and adopting best practices on sustainable human habitats.

2.0 PRELIMINARIES

The Conference began with self-introductions followed by the singing of the national Anthem of The United Republic of Tanzania as well as the EAC Anthem.

3.0 OPENING SESSION

The President of the GPH for Africa and Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Margaret Nantongo Zziwa made welcoming remarks at the Opening of the Conference. She expressed deep appreciation to the Government and the people of The United Republic of Tanzania for the unequivocal support to the EAC over the years. She also thanked the delegates who had traveled far and wide for finding time to join and participate in the celebrations of the silver jubilee of the GPH. She noted that the mood was celebrative but also seminal and presented a unique setting to “take stock of the progress on the Habitat Agenda, reflect on the challenges, navigate through the hurdles and propel the way forward.”

She pointed out that, in taking a cursory look at the MDG’s, there was some good progress to be proud of but that much more could have been achieved by harnessing the efforts and synergies from all stakeholders.

She underscored that fact that shelter was a cardinal area of humanity and a basic need which, in the present times, defines and individual’s self-esteem. She nonetheless noted that most people continue to live in deplorable conditions, with no basic utilities and services, in slums, where congestion, pollution and land degradation characterize the environment. She noted that the contents of the Habitat Agenda include human settlement, sustainable cities and urban development. However, poor planning, the high cost of

utilities and services as well as the mushrooming of slums remain critical challenges to management of cities.

In pondering on some of the factors that have occasioned the status quo, she noted that the solutions partly lie on the shoulders of politicians, most specifically the Parliamentarians, who have a responsibility to articulate the problem and to support as well as hold governments accountable for the implementation to the MDG targets that would result in an improvement in the livelihood of the electorate. She thus urged the GPH, through their representative role, to keep abreast with the problems and subsequently ensure that they are reflected in the laws, motions, resolutions and questions put on the order Paper of Parliament.

She concluded by urging GPH to “take the Habitat Agenda to the next level and make it a panacea to unrelenting growth in the region and on the continent. The targets like **Shelter for all by 2015; Clean Water for all by 2015;** even **No Mother shall die while giving Life;** must not remain rhetoric” and called for political commitment to attain these goals.

The Opening Session was presided over by the Vice President of The United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal, who delivered the opening remarks and officially opened the Conference. The Vice President commended the GPH for promoting the worthy cause of sustainable human settlements and development. He underscored the importance of shelter as a basic human need that requires constant direction and monitoring.

He noted that while some progress had been made at the EAC Partner States level in the achievement of the MDG’s, the regional perspective revealed that there was still a long way to go to address the challenges of unplanned settlements; of the underweight children; of reducing hunger by a half by 2015; of reducing gender inequality in education and in the job market; and in reducing child mortality as well as on improving maternal health.

He pointed out that the achievement of the MDG’s is predicated on refocusing national and regional integration agenda towards, among others, the creation

of reliable and cost-effective economic and social infrastructure; galvanizing public and private sector resources towards enhanced agricultural and industrial growth as well as development.

He concluded by challenging the EAC to pursue the development agenda with more vigour and focus than ever before and called upon the legislators to refocus their oversight role towards the development agenda in the MDG's.

Prior to the official opening remarks by His Excellency the Vice President, the Opening Ceremony was addressed by the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon. Shem Bageine, who emphasized the need for the proper utilization of land to ensure a balanced urban development. The Chairperson of the Council of Ministers challenged the leadership of the EAC to at all levels to play a key role in championing the urbanization process and proposed that a percentage of the resources from the recent discoveries of oil and gas be channeled towards improved urbanization. He concluded his remarks by inviting His Excellency the Vice President to address the gathering.

The Opening ceremony was also addressed by the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban development of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Anna Tibaijuka; the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira; and the Deputy Secretary General of the East African Community in charge of the Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Jesca Eriyo.

4.0 KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE STATUS OF HABITAT IN THE CONTINENT: CHALLENGES ON THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Samuel Shibuta-Mabala, Commissioner for Urban Development in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development of the Republic of Uganda who gave a historical perspective of the development of the habitat agenda from the 1st UN Habitat Conference in 1976 to the adoption of the MDG on "housing for all" in 2000.

He provided a situational analysis on the urbanization process which he characterized as mainly organic rather than planned. He noted that the trend

in rapid urban growth had taken the form of an urban sprawl as opposed to planned spatial developments. The urbanization processes have also been characterized by (i) inadequate planning and management; (ii) physical planning that is divorced from socio-economic development; (iii) the formulation of piece-meal rather than holistic implementation plans; (iv) weak capacities, political interferences and poor enforcement of regulations.

He pointed out that the urban sector contributes more than two-thirds of GDP of many countries and was thus a major contributor to the transformation of these economies. He re-echoed the established fact that high economic growth is always achieved when urbanization takes place within the context of planned urbanization. This, in turn, would translate into employment generation for the labour force, thus creating wealth and more revenue to the government in form of taxes, fees and property rates.

He outlines some of the ramifications of poor planning and the management of the urban sector as (i) increased urban crime and insecurity; (ii) undermining of the agricultural sector through ineffective forward and backward linkages; (iv) an uncompetitive urban economy that cannot attract investment resources and capital; and, above all, (v) a reduction on contribution of the sector to the GDP.

In the foregoing context, the presenter called for a new approach which requires the leadership to take serious strategic decisions to shape the future of urbanization and sustainable urban development. He outlined some of the things that need to be done as (i) developing and implementing an Integrated Urban Development Planning and Management system; (ii) developing and implementing an Urban Transport Planning and Traffic Management system; (iii) energy provision; (iv) proper solid waste management; (v) Water and Sanitation Management; and the management and protection of the urban ecology and heritage.

He concluded by underscoring the fact that urbanization was an irreversible process which was placing an immense demands on resources and services in the urban areas. It was thus imperative, as part of the coping mechanism for

the rising demands, to put in place appropriate policy, legal, institutional frameworks with adequate resources to support effective urban planning, development and management. But above all, there was need to engender greater political will to secure a desired sustainable urban future.

5.0 PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY/REGIONAL COMMITMENTS AND CURRENT STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MDG'S AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POST 2015 MDG AGENDA

The presentation was made by Mr. Peter K. Wegulo of UN-Habitat. He highlighted the state of urbanization in the global context noting that one in every two person was an urban dweller. He pointed out that urbanization was taking place more rapidly in the developing world at 93% as compared to 7% in the developed world. He observed that the main reasons for the growth of cities were because of natural increased in urban populations (50%); reclassification of rural areas as urban areas (25%); and rural-to-urban migration (25%).

In terms of opportunities, cities have the potential for wealth creation and for enhanced social development. They provide opportunities for employment and also as incubators of innovation and creativity.

On the downside, cities tend to have pockets of poverty and can become avenues for social and economic exclusion and marginalization of people. Cities, if not well managed, can also be sources of environmental degradation and decay. A major challenge has been the growth of slums which represent 38% of the world's urban growth rate.

In terms of the MDG commitment, target 7 and 11 requires:

- (i) Halving the number of people without access to safe water and sanitation by 2015;
- (ii) Improvement in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020;
- (iii) Proactive approaches to ensure that the potential 700 million new additions to cities will not be in slum by the year 2020;

- (iv) Thinking beyond slum upgrading to comprehensive development of human settlements including: (i) urban planning, (ii) security of tenure, and (iii) provision of basic infrastructure and services.

The MDG commitments require governments to implement adaptive interventions to cater for those already in slums as well as control new slum development. They also requires governments to (i) legislate for a better urban future, (ii) provide budget allocations to the sector, (iii) link and ensure that shelter and urban poverty reduction are addressed in national policies, (iv) promote the cause of adequate Shelter for All at the national and global levels; (v) become proactive advocates for the Habitat Agenda especially in Africa and (v) mainstream international assistance in the habitat programmes for developed countries.

He outlined the governance reforms that are needed to boost interventions in the sector to include: (i) regional political and economic integration, (ii) introducing innovations in financing, service delivery, management, technology and (iii) relating water and sanitation to housing and urban development.

With regard to the status of slum upgrading at national level, the presenter highlighted the following:

- (i) In Kenya, steps have been taken with the launch of the KENSUP in 2001 (covering Kibera, Korokocho, Mvoko, Kisumu, Mombasa etc) and Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project KISIP (covering Eldoret, Embu, Garissa, Kakamega, Kericho, Kitui, Kisumu, Machakos, Malindi and Mombasa, Nairobi City, Naivasha, Nakuru, Nyeri, and Thika) in 2011. The target is to provide 5.3 million housing units including slum dwellers by 2020. Kenya has also developed a Housing Policy, a Land Policy and an Urban Policy;
- (ii) Uganda has developed an Urban Policy, a Land Policy as well as a Land Use Policy. A Slum Upgrading Strategy was also developed in 2006. The target is to provide 4.5 million housing units including slum dwellers in Tororo, Wakiso, Lira, Mbarara, Mbale, Kabale, Arua, Jinja and Soroti. The Kasoli Slum Upgrading Project was launched in 2009, and construction has commenced;

- (iii) In Tanzania, the Urban Policy framework in place and the slum upgrading programme (Burunguni, Mwisho, Karusini, Hanna Nasif and others in Bagamoyo, Morogoro) has commenced. Tanzania adopted the National Human Settlements Development Policy (NHSDP) in 2000 and has also launched the City wide Action Plan for upgrading unplanned and un-serviced settlements in Dar-es-Salaam;
- (iv) Rwanda has developed an Urban Policy framework and has also launched the Cities without Slums initiative in 2004. The housing strategy targets the development of 25,000 housing units by per annum; and
- (v) Burundi has undertaken the profiling of slum settlements in Bujumbura, Ngozi and Katana. Burundi has developed an Urban Policy framework and also launched the Cities without Slums initiative.

With regard to the provision of urban water and sanitation, East Africa was on track to meet the MDG target on safe drinking water. The average coverage is between 70% to 80% safe water in urban areas. However, urban improved sanitation coverage remains a major challenge as over 70% people in the region still lack access to improved sanitation.

The number of people in urban areas without improved sanitation is increasing due to rapid growth of urban populations. He pointed out that the effects of climate change remain a critical challenge to effective and sustainable water management, and vulnerable cities need to prepare their infrastructure to cope with its impacts.

He noted that sustainable housing and urban development requires significant investment in housing and urban infrastructure to keep pace with the growing needs. Currently, the demand for housing and developed land far exceeds their supply. It is in the foregoing context that it was essential for governments to (i) develop housing finance systems; (ii) unlock the potential of land as a source for capital for urban development; (ii) utilize public-private partnership for urban development; (iv) promote legislation and facilitate the institutional framework in the housing sector to work.

In terms of the post 2015 agenda, there will be need to adopt a tripartite strategy based on (i) advocacy and capacity building through technical assistance; (ii) the collection and analysis of data to get the real picture of urbanization trends and issues; and (iii) demystifying the assumption that proximity to a service implied access to that service.

With specific reference to housing and slum upgrading, there will be need to (i) provide affordable housing finance; (ii) ensure reliability on mortgage to other forms of credit to meet our housing needs; and (iii) undertake policy reforms that provide seed capital to enable housing cooperatives work to enable access to housing finance. There will also be the need to promote the rental housing options as the majority of urban residents (between 30-50%) in developing countries are tenants in the private informal sector.

The urban economy will also need to be given a boost so as to facilitate access to jobs, skills, credit, infrastructure services and markets. Part of slum upgrading initiatives can help create jobs and improve livelihoods for the youth, women and the working poor. Establishing pro-poor investment funds from the future oil and other mineral deposit revenues expected all over the East African region will also be a viable option to shore up the potential contribution of urban sector to the economy. It will nonetheless be essential to:

- (i) Put in place an urban planning system that is sound, clear, concise, and easy to understand;
- (ii) Have innovation both in institutional performance and in inclusive policies;
- (iii) Promote effective planning to ensure that we are not continually playing catch-up with demand;
- (iv) To provide land for the urban poor so as to enjoy security of tenure as a result of settling in planned areas.

In terms of the provision of urban basic services, the starting point was in slum upgrading in order to provide environmentally sound basic infrastructure and services. In this context, it was important to explore and strengthen linkages between local authorities, utilities bodies and private sector for the provision

of (i) water and sanitation, (ii) energy to stimulate investment flows and to (iii) focus on un-served and under-served populations. Intra-regional partnerships should also be harnessed to share experiences and best practices among the service provider of utilities.

It would likewise be important to manage the impacts of disasters resulting from climate change and other disasters that begin and end in cities. In this connection, it was essential to analyze urbanization from an integrated risk and safety perspective and to ensure the sustainability of the interventions.

In concluding, the presenter noted that a lot had been done but more still needs to be done as progress has been slow. Collaboration between various agencies and civil society should be enhanced.

6.0 PRESENTATIONS FROM GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE HABITAT AGENDA, URBAN PLANNING ON URBAN SETTLEMENTS

Presentations on the status and way forward on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at country level were made by the leaders of delegations from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa respectively.

6.1 Burundi

The leader of the GPH delegation from the Republic of Burundi thanked the organizers for the invitation. He pointed out that, already Burundi was just coming out of a period of prolonged of civil strife, the leadership had shown a lot of political will which had led to the effectiveness of policies that had been put in place to the implement the MGG commitments.

A programme to transform one village per county into an urban status has been launched. With the return of refugees, the government has also initiated a Land Reform Bill and also launched a “villagization programme” which aims at providing solar energy to satellite rural communities.

In terms of access to financing, the government had put in place a facility to support the building of modern houses in urban areas and called upon the “friends of Burundi” to invest in this project.

6.2 Kenya

The leader of the GPH delegation from the Republic of Kenya thanked the organizers for the invitation and expressed happiness for being able to join the GPH fraternity in celebrating 25 years of its existence.

She pointed out that, 56% of the 40 million Kenya were experiences various challenges related to availability of decent human settlements. The new government had put in place broad policies to address the shortcomings within the context of the Vision 2030 but progress towards achieving the MDG goals were being hampered by inadequate capacity and funding for the implementation of programmes as well as awareness campaigns.

She concurred with the status of the slum upgrading programme as enumerated by the presenter on the ***“country commitments current status of implementation of MGD’s and Recommendations for post 2015 MDG agenda”*** and noted that the last Parliament had set up a Caucus on poverty and the status of implementation of the MDG commitments by Kenya. She concluded by making a commitment to review the status report of the Parliamentary Caucus and to follow-up on the recommendation to ensure that they are implemented by government.

6.3 Rwanda

The representative of EALA from Rwanda extended the apologies of the GPH forum of the Republic of Rwanda which was unable to attend the conference due to the fact that Rwandan Parliament has been dissolved in preparation for Parliamentary election due in September 2013. She nonetheless thanked the organizers for the invitation underscoring the fact that urbanization was irreversible and it was therefore imperative that appropriate legislative and

institutional frameworks are put in place to ensure proper and effective urban planning and development.

She reported that all the necessary laws to support developments in the sector had been put in place. In the context of security of tenure, the target is to complete the electronic titling of all land holdings by the end of 2013. Family land is co-owned by both spouses on a 50-50% basis with a provision for the children to inherit that land on equal basis between the boy-child and the girl-child.

The land market has also been regulated to the extent that there is no room for land speculation. In other words, if you are allocated a piece of land but unable to develop it, it will be taken away and allocated to another potential investor.

Rwanda has also been able to eradicate grass thatched houses. The remaining challenge is nonetheless with regard to the issue of the provision of adequate water and sanitation facilities and well as unplanned settlements. The other issue that Rwanda has to contend with relates to inadequate resource especially for compensation prior to implementing key infrastructure projects.

6.4 Tanzania

The leader of the GPH delegation from the United Republic of Tanzania thanked the organizers for the invitation. He surmised that African was lagging behind in terms of urban planning and development and, as such, the Tanzanian delegation was seized of the importance of the Conference in galvanizing further support and impetus in the implementation of the habitat agenda. He noted that the issue of unplanned settlements was high on the agenda of the Parliamentary Committee on and noted that the government was implementing various housing projects, including the development of satellite cities Dar-es-Salaam, Mbeya, Tanga, Mwanza, in partnership with the National Social Security Fund and the National Housing Corporation. He concluded by making a commitment on behalf of the

Committee to continue advocating for sustainable urban development of cities and other urban areas.

6.5 Uganda

The leader of the GPH delegation from the Republic of Uganda thanked the organizers for the invitation and complimented the GPH fraternity on its silver jubilee anniversary. She noted that Parliaments have a role to play as key partners in achieving the MDG's.

In terms of what has been done, she enumerated that:

- (i) The National housing Policy was being reviewed to strengthen the role of stakeholders in housing development;
- (ii) The process of developing a National Urban policy had commenced and US\$ 150 million has been secured to improve infrastructure development in the municipalities over 15 years;
- (iii) The land registry has been computerized to improve efficiency in the issuance of land titles;
- (iv) A programme to resettle the urban poor has been rolled-out with a key component involving awareness creation to empower them know their rights and responsibilities as well as the opportunities including the setting up membership associations (SACCOS) to secure mortgages to undertake housing improvements;

With regard to the role of Parliament, the GPH can:

- (i) Urge governments to ensure policies are implemented to develop urban areas in a sustainable manner;
- (ii) Influence the development of policies, legislative and institutional frameworks;
- (iii) Influence resource allocation towards urban development initiatives;
- (iv) Enforce accountability to ensure that resources are used for the intended purposes.

She concluded by noting that the budget process in Uganda was ongoing and pledged on behalf of the GPH forum to ensure that adequate resources are allocated towards urban planning and development.

6.6 South Africa

The leader of the GPH delegation from the Republic of South Africa thanked the organizers for the invitation and expressed happiness for being able to join the GPH fraternity in celebrating 25 years of its existence.

She enumerated some of the efforts that the Parliament of South Africa has been able to do to ensure oversight over the executive in the implementation of the MDG's as follows:

- (i) In terms of the MDG 7, adopted a comprehensive integrated strategy code named "*Breaking New Ground*" initiative in 2009, although implementation is still facing a few problems;
- (ii) Changed the nomenclature of the intervention from a focus on "housing" to encompass "human settlement development";
- (iii) Scrutinizing the budget to ensure adequate allocations to the achievement of the MDG commitments. A Budget Office has been established to assist Members of Parliament scrutinize and ensure harmony in budget allocations;
- (iv) Recognizing that rural-urban migration was driven by the search for economic opportunities, the State of the Nation Address of 2009 outlined a number of interventions to ensure the creation of quality and sustainable human settlements. The target was to provide security of tenure and housing to 4,000 households from 2011 – 2014. This is done through the auspices of the Housing Development Agency which identifies and parcels out land for human settlement;
- (v) A Land-Use Planning and Management Act focusing on rural development but encompassing a human settlement component has been enacted to govern the review of the implementation of the 1920 land Act;

- (vi) The land market has also been identified for review. The government is also reviewing its policy on how to deliver 8,000 housing units to the urban poor per year on a subsidized and sustainable basis;
- (vii) Financing is also being addressed to facilitate access for housing developing;

Challenges nonetheless exist which include: (i) the slow pace of implementation of policies; (ii) the commercialization of sanitation services; and (iii) the lack of innovative technologies.

7.0 THE AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP PROJECT: STRENGTHENING UN-HABITAT PARTNERSHIP WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR A NEW AFRICAN URBAN AGENDA

The presentation was made by Ms. Mariam Yunusa of UN-Habitat who noted that, whereas the urban population in 2009 stood at 40% of the entire African population, this was projected to rise to 60% by the year 2050. She pointed out that the increase in urban populations would, in turn, lead to an exponential increase in the demand for shelter, urban services and higher demand for consumable goods. It was thus essential to find ways and means to effectively guide the process of urbanization in a controllable, governable and humane manner.

In the foregoing context, African governments must take responsibility for addressing the current policy inertia, and lead a broad based process of mobilizing, informing, empowering and engaging their citizens through their representative structures. The process should revolve around harnessing the capacities of all stakeholders to advocate for adequate policy tools, legislation and frameworks for urban governance. It was also important to undertake proactive planning processes that protect the rights of all citizens to information, participation, consultation and decision making.

She made reference to the African Union Decision 29 of 2003 made in Maputo requesting the UN-Habitat to continue to work with countries and their partners to promote the development of towns and cities for the benefit of their citizens.

She also made reference to the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) which had, over the last decade, addressed a number of habitat themes at their regular and special sessions including: (i) *Shelter and Development* in 2005; (ii) *The Slum MDG* in 2006; (iii) *Finance and Resource for Urbanization* in 2007; *Land and Urbanization* in 2010; and *Territorial Planning, Basic Services and Climate Change* in 2012.

The AMCHUD (IV), which was held in Nairobi in April 2011, adopted a New Pact to optimize the urban advantage encompassing four key elements namely; (i) transformative national urban policy; (ii) compact cities at a human scale; (iii) undertaking institutional and legal reforms; and (iv) learning to do things together.

She pointed out that it was imperative to secure a buy-in by the citizenry to ensure the success of the policies and programmes. She noted that the evolution of slums was, indeed, an indication of failed policies and programmes.

In the foregoing regard, UN-Habitat had embarked on a project to strengthen partnerships and to work with partners across Sub-Sahara Africa to bring the Habitat Agenda Partners (HAPs) to form a deeper understanding of the priorities identified at the Ministerial level. These will be used as a spring-board for an inclusive preparatory process for the Habitat III which will be held in Nairobi later in the year to launch the New Pact and seek the views of participants on its efficacy.

In terms of the individual contribution that parliamentarians can make towards this goal was to enrich their party manifestoes with issues to do with urban planning and unplanned settlements.

She stated that, on its part, the UN-Habitat was responding to the new pact through undertaking a project to strengthen strategic partnerships for the urban agenda. The aim is to: (i) raise the profile of urbanization as an imperative for development in Africa; and (ii) contribute towards promoting democratic governance through mobilization, sensitization and strengthening of non-state actors to participate in the preparation of national Habitat III reports thereby articulating Africa's priorities for the next 20 years.

Using the New Pact as the backdrop, the project seeks to:

- (i) strengthen HAPs and other non-state actors in Sub-Sahara Africa through broad-based consultations, practical research, policy dialogues and capacity building;
- (ii) support Sub-Sahara African countries to effectively engage to advance the urban agenda in all processes and activities including the post 2015 MDG Agenda and preparations of country reports for Habitat III;
- (iii) build the capacity of HAPs to be able to contribute in a strategic and complimentary way to the policy dialogues for development of transformative national urban policies;

The overall expectation from this project is that Africa will be able to speak with one voice in negotiations and global platforms, but more specifically to:

- (i) create a critical mass of people who are aware and have a deeper knowledge of what their governments are doing in the urban development sector;
- (ii) develop a stronger network of stakeholders who are able to relate within themselves and with Government in a complementary and collaborative manner to avoid a breakdown in social order;
- (iii) consolidate the UN-Habitat data base of partners to promote a systematic relationship among them;
- (iv) institutionalize the HAPs into the formal work of UN-Habitat in a structured manner;
- (v) contribute to the process of steady growth and development by promoting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda on safe, healthier and more productive human settlements.

She enumerated the key partners in the project as:

- (i) The Programme Branches of UN-Habitat who work in the Africa region; the Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Nigeria;
- (ii) The Habitat Agenda Partners (HAPs) including Parliamentarians, Local Governments, Civil Society Organizations, Youth, Women, the Private Sector and Planning Institutes from Sub-Sahara Africa;

- (iii) The National Habitat Committees and Urban Forums;
- (iv) The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa;
- (v) The African Union; and
- (vi) African Development Bank.

She highlighted some of the key roles that the parliamentarians can play in harnessing the gains of urbanization as well as articulating Africa's voice at global level to include:

- (i) Promoting a deeper understanding of and a more complementary engagement with partners in developing policy options for the urban agenda;
- (ii) Enriching the manifestoes of their political parties with sound urban development proposals;
- (iii) Joining the country level consultations and to enrich the debate with sound alternatives; and
- (iv) Advocacy for governments support for the additional funds that the project needs to reach the 54 African countries.

In concluding, the presenter noted that *"Africa needs to reposition itself to embrace the reality and the inevitability of urbanization as a transformative force in order to benefit from the process. The continent's urban agenda in the 21st century must be fully embraced by all actors – state and non-state"*.

8.0 MAKING AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORK FOR AFRICA

A presentation on *"Providing Solutions to the Global Housing Crisis"* was made by Mr. Richard China, CEO and President of International Green Structures in the USA.

He outlined the problem of urbanization and development as a combination of:

- (i) Increasing demand for housing;
- (ii) Decreasing supply of decent and affordable housing;
- (iii) The shifting population; and
- (iv) The lack of alternatives.

He highlighted the key factors to consider in developing appropriate interventions as a flexible mix of (i) the climate, (ii) topography, (iii) culture, (iv) the appropriate technology and (v) the economic life cycle of housing.

He pointed out that the business model that would best lead to the solution should encompass the following factors: (i) sustainability, (ii) farm to facility, (iii) manufacturing facility, (vi) transportation, (v) durability, and (vi) affordability.

He postulated that a model based on a 3,000 house project using an in-country factory would: (i) lead to a new agro-product, (ii) create approximately 2,000 jobs, (iii) provide housing and education, (iv) build community infrastructure, (v) improve secondary markets, (vii) raise approx US\$ 30 million, and (vii) translate into a better future for the community.

He concluded with a personal quote that *“With any new technology, the most complex challenge is the cultural adaptation of the people. Overcoming that hurdle is paramount to solving the shortage in emerging economies.”*

9.0 EMERGING ISSUES

In the ensuing plenary discussion, delegates:

- (i) Noted that Parliamentarians were legislators who have a role to play in providing oversight over the vision, policies and programmes with respect to the Habitat Agenda and its impacts on the citizenry;
- (ii) Noted that Parliamentarians have a role to play in ensuring the sustainable development of cities. The key issue was to define the public good vis-a-vis the private good and develop policies as well as strategies to ensure an optimal balance in urban development;
- (iii) Noted that 650 million people in the world were PWD’s and constitute the majority of the marginalized groups. Given that the Habitat Agenda was a pro-poor people agenda, it follows that it should also incorporate PWD issues. This is because slums and unplanned settlements were

- generally more prone to disease outbreaks including polio. The various Building Codes and Regulations should be used to inform the accessibility standards for housing construction that are PWD inclusive;
- (iv) Noted that there is need to review the indicator on the MDG target on the improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020 to reflect a percentage increment as opposed to a numerical figure;
 - (v) Noted that there was a need to review the statistics that depicts the rural areas to be close to achieving the MDG on access to clean water as opposed to their urban counterparts given the situation on the ground which indicates otherwise;
 - (vi) Noted that there is need to develop policies and strategies to promote rain-water harvesting both in the rural and urban areas;
 - (vii) Noted that there appears to be some correlation between rapid urbanization and the incidence of crime. It is in this context that it was important to develop alternative policy options including the provision of social and economic amenities similar to those in the urban areas so as to stem the tide of rural-urban migration;
 - (viii) Noted that there was a need to promote ownership of urbanization policies and programmes. It was therefore essential to have an in-built mechanism for awareness creation and sensitization on the impending policy changes in order to secure a buy-in on the proposals before implementation;
 - (ix) Noted that there was a need to make provision for monitoring renting or the out-right selling of individual interest by the beneficiaries of slum upgrading programmes;
 - (x) Noted that the UN-Habitat would convene an Experts Working Group meeting in Nairobi later this year to launch the new partnership on the urban agenda based on the New Pact made by the African Ministers for Housing and Urban Development during which participants will be requested to comment and make input on its efficacy;
 - (xi) Noted that Parliamentarians can make a contribution towards the promotion of planned urbanization by including issues to do with urban planning and development within their respective party manifestoes;
 - (xii) Noted that the UN-Habitat is scheduled to hold a Conference in Nairobi to launch the pact and seek views on its efficacy;

- (xiii) Noted that, in terms of the individual contribution that can be made by parliamentarians to promote planned urbanization was the need to enrich their party manifestoes with issues to do with urban planning and development;
- (xiv) Noted that there were advantages and disadvantages for building mega-cities vis-a-vis numerous satellite towns. The choice would have to be based on a cost-benefit analysis to determine which option to implement;
- (xv) Noted that there was need to clearly analyse the reasons for promoting urban development vis-a-vis rural development; and
- (xvi) Noted that there was need to enhance coordination between the various stakeholders to harness the synergies in urban development.

10.0 WAY FORWARD

In terms of the way forward, participants:

- (i) Renewed their commitment to the UN-Habitat Agenda. The Parliamentarians were particularly resolute in their commitment to work with UN-Habitat through the GPH forum to promote adequate, decent and affordable shelter for their people through good laws, awareness creation, oversight role as well as capacity building programmes and to ensure that a percentage of the government budget is reserved for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at national level;
- (ii) Appreciated the progress that African Governments had made in the implementation of Decision 29/2003 of the African Union and commended the four elements that comprise the New Pact which the African Ministers for Housing and Urban Development had entered into with their people to capture their commitment to the continent's 50 year plan – Africa Agenda 2063. It was agreed that a meeting of the GPH and the African Ministers for Housing and Urban Development be organized to deliberate on the aspirations of the people as well as set targets for achieving the various urbanization milestones along the way. The Diaspora should also be invited to participate in this meeting;

- (iii) Supported the need to forge a more inclusive and broad-based partnership on the Habitat Agenda with both state and non-state actors including Parliamentarians, local authorities, researchers, non-governmental organizations and the civil society including women and youth groups;
- (iv) Strongly supported UN-Habitat's Strengthening of Partnership Programme and called upon the leadership of Sub-Saharan countries at all levels to support the programme;
- (v) Made a commitment to support and actively participate in the preparatory processes at country and regional level for the UN-Habitat III which is scheduled to take place in 2014;
- (vi) Appreciated the plans by UN-Habitat to convene an Experts Working Group meeting in Nairobi later this year to launch the new partnership on the urban agenda based on the New Pact made by the African Ministers for Housing and Urban Development during which participants will be requested to comment and make input on its efficacy;
- (vii) Recommended that the Habitat Agenda should have a strong focus on PWD's. The various Building Codes and Regulations should be used to inform the accessibility standards for housing construction that are PWD inclusive;
- (viii) Appreciated that peace and security are key to the successful implementation of urban development programmes. It is in this regard that pro-peace approaches and initiatives should be promoted as a means to ensuring sustainable urbanization;
- (ix) Recommended that the indicator on the MDG target on the improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020 should be reviewed to reflect a percentage increment as opposed to a numerical figure;
- (x) Recommended that the same social and economic amenities as those that are provided in the urban areas should also be provided in the rural areas so as to stem the tide of rural-urban migration;
- (xi) Urged Parliamentarians to spearhead the promotion of planned urbanization by ensuring that issues to do with urban planning and

- development are incorporated within their respective party manifestoes;
- (xii) Urged Parliamentarians to promote a deeper understanding of and a more complementary engagement with partners in developing policy options for the urban agenda;
 - (xiii) Urged Parliamentarians to undertake advocacy with national governments to provide the additional funds that the project on strengthening partnership that is being spearheaded by UN-Habitat needs to reach the 54 African countries.
 - (xiv) Recognized that the Habitat Agenda cuts across individual sector mandates and thus urged Parliamentarians to establish GPH forums at national level where they do not exist and re-invigorate those that already exist so as to create a platform to promote dialogue on the whole range of Habitat issues;
 - (xv) Recommended that each national chapter of the GPH should review the status of the national programmes and submit resolutions for incorporation in the post- 2015 MDG Habitat commitments in preparation for Habitat 2016;
 - (xvi) Acknowledged that the process of urbanization was irreversible and therefore urged Parliamentarians to initiate the necessary Bills to promote sustainable urban development;
 - (xvii) Urged African governments to promote and ensure the proper and optimal utilization of land so as to ensure a balanced urban development;
 - (xviii) Urged African governments to develop policies and strategies to promote rain water harvesting both in the rural and urban areas;
 - (xix) Urged African governments to put in place policies and programmes to sensitize the citizenry on the impending reforms in urban planning and development so as to secure a buy-in in the process;
 - (xx) Urged the leadership of the EAC Partner States at all levels to play a leading role in championing the urbanization process and to advocate for a percentage of the resources from the recent discoveries of oil and gas be channelled towards improved urbanization; and

- (xxi) Expressed serious concern over the prevalence and ramifications of corruption on service delivery and resolved to take all necessary measures to deal with the problem.

11.0 CLOSING REMARKS

The Closing Ceremony was addressed by the Deputy Secretary General of the EAC in charge of the Productive and Social Sectors (DSG-PSS) who congratulated the President of the GPH/Rt. Hon. Speaker of EALA as well as the delegates for a very rewarding and informative two-day engagement on the status, challenges and the way forward in the implementation of the MDG's. The DSG-PSS re-echoed the universally accepted view that human settlement and decent housing was a right unto all persons which should be accorded without fail. The only variation to granting this right should be on account of resource constraints but not on the failure of the leadership to put in place the requisite policies and programmes for its attainment.

She pointed out the importance of promoting the rural economy as part of the solution to encouraging the young generation to engage in productive activity in the rural areas and to stem the tide of rural-urban migration. She also proposed the adaptation of various technologies including water harvesting and roof-top farming to make a difference in the quality of life of the citizenry.

She noted that there was need to prioritize the implementation of key interventions within the context of the human development framework including the Food security and Climate Change Action Plan; Energy Access and Connectivity Master Plan; the Livestock Policy and Strategy as well as the sensitization of the masses to embrace and benefit from these interventions.

She concluded her remarks with a commitment on the part of the EAC Secretariat to follow-through on the recommendation of the Conference and to work with EALA, the national parliaments, UN-Habitat and all stakeholders to develop programmes for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in all the EAC Partner States.

The Closing Ceremony was also addressed Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat who conveyed appreciation for the warm reception accorded to her and her team as well as the commitment and untiring engagement of the participants over the course of the 2-days of the Conference. She acknowledged the successful outcome of the Conference and felt that it was the right time to exploit the synergies from effort of various stakeholders to make a difference in the executing the Habitat Agenda.

She pointed out that, over and above its capacity to follow through on the resolutions of the Conference, UH-Habitat also had technical expertise that can be drawn upon by EAC as well as national governments to develop bankable proposals that can provide resources to plan and execute projects, including infrastructure development, to promote the planned settlements.

She thanked her colleagues for their input in the Conference and urged them to take forward the recommendations of the Conference, as well as those from the GPH forum, to the various levels of the governance structure on human settlements including the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

The Closing remarks were delivered by Speaker of EALA and President of GPH - Africa Chapter who thanked all the participants, resource persons, the UN family and the interpreters for honouring her invitation and urged them to take back good memories and warm sentiments on their experience over the 2-day Conference as well as the celebrations to mark the 25th Anniversary of GPH.

She also conveyed her appreciation to the Regional Commissioner of Arusha and his team as well as the Mayor of Arusha city for the courtesies and warm hospitality extended to the distinguished delegates during the course of their stay in Arusha.

She called upon the parliamentarians to establish GPH forums where none exist and to reinvigorate that exist so as to keep the Habitat Agenda alive. She observed that the Habitat Agenda being a pro-poor agenda needs to be prioritized in terms of its potential drive the agenda of decent housing, clean

water, good sanitation and a sustainable environment for the benefit of the citizenry.

She underscored the significance of the resolution to plant trees at every sitting of the EALA as a symbol of the commitment to a clean and sustainable environment and urged participants to do their bit in promoting that aspiration.

She concluded her remarks by extending appreciation to the H.E. the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania for honouring her invitation to be the Chief Guest at the Opening Ceremony. She pointed out that his presence was a great honour and a clear indication and acknowledgement that the Conference was of a high-level.

She congratulated the Executive Committee of the GPH for their contribution in organizing the Conference. She thanked Hon. Mariam Nalubega for her dedication and contribution to the GPH over the years. She thanked the Secretary General of GPH, whose term was coming to an end at the end of the year, for his service to GPH and the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat for generously accepting to move the GPR resolutions at the level of the UN Governing Council.

She concluded by thanking the staff of EALA for their dedication and efforts in supporting the EALA to function as a vibrant regional parliament.

ANNEXTURES

Annex I: Conference Programme

Annex II: List of Participants

Annex III: Welcome Remarks by the President of the GPH for Africa and Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Margaret Nantongo Zziwa

Annex IV: Opening Remarks by the by the Vice President of The United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal

Annex V: Keynote Address on the Status of Habitat in the Continent: Challenges on the Role of Government

Annex VI: Presentation on Country/Regional Commitments and Current Status of Implementation of MDG's and Recommendations for Post 2015 MDG Agenda

Annex VII: Presentation on the African Partnership Project: Strengthening Un-Habitat Partnership with Parliamentarians for a New African Urban Agenda

Annex VIII: Presentation on Providing Solutions to the Global Housing Crisis

Annex IX: Closing Remarks by President of the GPH for Africa and Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Margaret Nantongo Zziwa