FOURTH WORLD FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT

“GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES”

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM, OPERATING RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Berlin, Germany, May 12-14, 2003
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Topic: “Governance for Sustainable Cities”

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Background.


All these conferences dealt with aspects of fundamental importance for national and regional development, as well as for international cooperation, with regard to sustainable development, population distribution, ordering of human settlements, job creation, alleviating poverty and the scope of social justice.

In the resolution 47/180 of December 22, 1992, the UN General Assembly determined that the Habitat II Conference would set as its objective the adoption of principles and commitments, and those as a result of an appropriate global plan of action for orienting national and international efforts during the first two decades of the XXI century.

Accordingly, the Habitat II Agenda includes a reaffirmation of principles and commitments through the implementation of a Global Plan of Action to achieve sustainable development of human settlements in a world undergoing a process of urbanization, and an adequate housing for all.

Given that most of the measures are undertaken at national and local levels, the Habitat Agenda determined to foster the institutional development and capacity within the own countries; strengthen local authorities; facilitate broad participation of their populations; define governments’ responsibilities; adopt effective public policies; legally regulate human settlements; generate financial resources; create efficient economic instruments, and guarantee information and communication.
2. The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat Group came out as a result of the meeting held in Yokohama, Japan, 1987, and its ruling. Its original ruling bylaws were formally adopted at the Global Parliamentarians Conference on Human Settlements and Development held in Vancouver, Canada, 1992, which were later modified by the Twelfth Meeting, held in Cancún, Mexico, 1998.


3. As a parallel event, prior to and in support of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, in coordination with the parliaments of the world, and as proposed by the United Nations Center for Human Settlements, held the First World Forum of Parliamentarians on Habitat in Istanbul, Turkey, on May 31st-June 1st, 1996, which was attended by 166 legislators from 34 countries of the 5 continents: Algiers, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Zaire, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, China, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Pakistan, Germany, Andorra, Belgium, Slovakia, Finland, France, Holland, Rumania, Sweden, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Papua New Guinea.

As a following up on the commitments adopted at the Habitat II Conference, a Second World Forum of Parliamentarians on Habitat was held in Cancún, Mexico, on January 27-30, 1998, with the participation of 266 legislators from 58 countries on the 5 continents: Andorra, Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Holland, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mexico, Micronesia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Peru, Yugoslavia, Rumania, San Marino, Sao Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In order to maintain the development of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, the Third World Forum was held in Manila Philippines on July, 2000, with the attendance of 230 legislators from 48 countries of the 5 continents.
4. In accordance with the principles adopted in the Declaration of Principles and Commitments of the First World Forum of Parliamentarians on Habitat, expectations, requirements and commitments in the areas of human settlements, urban development and housing have been generated in the legislative and political fields for parliamentarians and authorities,

From a general point of view, the most important challenge we face is promoting the institutionalization process of the recommendations, principles and commitments, and the Global Plan of Action, adopted at the Habitat II Conference, with full respect for each country’s sovereignty, by issuing or updating the laws that specifically regulate human settlements; defining or adapting urban and housing public policies, and establishing or restructuring the government institutions, particularly the local ones, in charge of applying these laws and complying with the respective policies, promoting the participation of society.

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat have diagnosed an unequal legislative scenario. While some countries have passed advanced laws on human settlements, and despite the time elapsed since the Habitat I Conference held in Vancouver, Canada, 1976, the majority have not enacted a single law on human settlements, with few exceptions that only have implemented some regulations that address only components of the urban development, such as housing,

5. In order to follow up on the objectives set forth in the Habitat II Agenda, as well as in the Declaration of the First World Forum of Parliamentarians on Habitat, a Regional Council was created for each continent, in order to take care and establish permanent contacts between the parliamentarians and authorities of each region, so as to promote the exchange of experiences, evaluate the situation and promote the issuance or updating of legislation on human settlements, urban development and housing.

Each of these regional councils will hold meetings for the purpose of gathering the necessary information to enable them to submit a report on the situation in each region regarding legislation on human settlements, urban development and housing at the Fourteenth Meeting of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, to be held in Berlin, Germany on May 12-14, 2003.
Objectives of the Fourth World Forum.

6. The objectives of the Fourth World Forum of Parliamentarians on Habitat are to:

   a) Promote, disseminate and support the principles and commitments of the Declaration of Istanbul on Human Settlements and of the Habitat II Program, adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, as well as those adopted in the declarations of the First and Second World Forums of Parliamentarians on Habitat;

   b) Analyze the role of parliamentarians after the Habitat II Conference and foster their active and decisive participation;

   c) Promote the issuance or upgrading of national legislation on human settlements, urban development and housing;

   d) Encourage the establishment and adaptation of national, subregional and regional public policies favoring the sustainable development of human settlements and access to adequate housing for all;

   e) Evaluate the situation as regards legislation on human settlements, urban development and housing at regional and world levels;

   f) Favor communication and support among parliamentarians, in order to exchange know-how and experiences in the field; and

   g) Promote the establishment of national, subregional and regional groups of parliamentarians on habitat, in coordination with the Global Group.
Documents to be studied and adopted at the Fourth World Forum.

7. The Fourth World Forum will study a variety of documents with regard to its objectives, in order to adopt a Declaration of Principles and Commitments of the Fourth World Forum of Parliamentarians on Habitat.

Provisional program.

8. The provisional program of the Fourth World Forum of Parliamentarians on Habitat will be as follows:

a) Opening ceremony of the Fourth World Forum;

b) Approval of the definitive program and induction of the Board for the Fourth World Forum;

c) Comments on the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat II Program and the Biennial Program 2002-2003 of the United Nations Center for Human Settlements;

d) Panels of experts on urban legislation, planning of human settlements, urban development and housing;

e) Fourteenth Meeting of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat;

f) Reports on the situation regarding legislation on human settlements, urban development and housing at global and regional levels;

g) Parliamentary Rostrum;

h) Presentation of the Program of Activities of the Global Group 2002-2004;

i) Renewal of the organs of the Global Group 2002-2004;

j) Organization of the Fifth World Forum and of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Group;

k) Closing ceremony of the Fourth World Forum.
Meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.

9. On occasion of the Fourth World Forum, the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat will hold their Fourteenth Meeting on May 12-14 of 2003, in the city of Berlin, Germany.

Bases for membership of the Board of the Fourth World Forum.

10. The Board of the Fourth World Forum shall be made up of a Chair, who will be the senator Ernesto Gil Elorduy, President of the Board of Directors of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat; a Co-Chair of the Forum, who will be the deputy Peter Götz, Vice-President for Europe; one Assistant Chair; four vice-chairs; one Secretary, and one Assistant Secretary.

Support for the organization and holding of the Fourth World Forum.

11. The United Nations Center for Human Settlements, the German Bundestag - the Parliament. And the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and the Mexican Parliamentarians on Habitat will support, wherever pertinent, the organization and functioning of the Fourth World Forum with the necessary resources and personnel.

The coordination of the stage prior to the Fourth World Forum is the responsibility of the President of the Board of Directors of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, together with the Co-Chair of the Forum and the German Bundestag. During the Fourth World Forum the responsibility is of the referred Board of Directors according to the rules of procedure of the German Bundestag.

Participants.

12. Preferably, individual parliamentarians or parliamentary groups shall participate in the Fourth World Forum. Furthermore, authorities, political leaders, NGOs, researchers, academics, lawyers, professional people and all those interested in supporting the objectives of the Fourth World Forum may participate.

The Chair of the World Forum may deny or cancel the registration of non-parliamentarian participants when it considers that a justified cause exists. This is without prejudice to the rights of the president of the German Bundestag under the latter’s rule of procedure.

Only parliamentarians shall have the right to vote at the Fourth World Forum.
Place and date of the Fourth World Forum.

13. The Fourth World Forum of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat will be held on May 12-14, of 2003 in Berlin, Germany.

Sessions.

14. Sessions of the Fourth World Forum shall begin at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda for the Fourth World Forum.

15. The sessions of the Fourth World Forum, as well as of the Fourteenth Meeting of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, shall be held in accordance with the following agenda of activities:
FOURTH WORLD FORUM OF GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT

Topic: “Governance for Sustainable Cities”

May 12-14, 2003, Berlin, Germany

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Sunday, May 11, 2003

12:00 a.m. Accreditation, registration and delivery of documents in the Conference Hotels.

6:00 p.m.

Monday, May 12, 2003

9:30 – 1:00 p.m. Accreditation, registration and delivery of documents at Parliamentary building. Entrance East.

3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Meeting of the board of directors of the GPH together with the board of directors for the European Continent.

2:00 - 4:30 p.m. Regional Conference of the GPH for the European Continent.

2:00-4:30 p.m.

4:30-5:30 p.m. Guided tours through the parliamentary building Spanish/English/French/German.

7:30 p.m. Welcoming cocktail offered by the President of the German Bundestag (Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany).

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

8:00 a.m. Accreditation, registration and delivery of documents at Parliamentary building.

9:00 a.m. Opening ceremony of the Fourth World Forum of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.

- Welcoming address by the Hon. Deputy Peter Götz, Vice-President for Europe of the Parliamentarians on Habitat.

- Statement by Sen. Ernesto Gil Elorduy, President of the Board of Directors of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.
- Inauguration of the Fourth World Forum by Vicepresident of the German Bundestag Dr. Lammert (to be confirmed).

9:45 a.m.  Recess.

10:15 a.m.  Approval of definitive program and operating rules, as well as introduction of the Board of the Fourth World Forum.

10:30 a.m.  Presentation of the Actions of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany by the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul (to be confirmed).

10:50 a.m.  Presentation of the Actions of the Local Government of the state of Hidalgo, Mexico, by the Governor Manuel Angel Núñez Soto.

11:10 a.m.  Statement by Dr. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, regarding progress in the implementation of the Habitat II Agenda and the Biennial Program 2002-2003.

11:30 a.m.  Statement by Senator Enrique Jackson Ramírez, President of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico.

Statements by other Presidents of Parliament or Congress.

12:30 p.m.  Lunch

1:30 p.m.  Introduction into the panel by Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP (to be confirmed)

2:00 - 4:30 p.m.  Discussion with external experts “Governance for sustainable cities”.

4:30-5:30 p.m.  Meetings of the Regional Councils by Continent of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (previous assignment of their respective meeting room)

7:30 p.m.  Reception offered by the KfW (German Development Bank)

**Wednesday, May 14, 2003**

8:00 a.m.  Accreditation, registration and delivery of documents at Parliamentary Building

9:00 a.m.  Opening ceremony of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and statement by Sen. Ernesto Gil Elorduy, President of the Board of Directors of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, Report from the panels Report on Activities 2000-2002
9:20 a.m. Address by Director Michael Parkes, UN-HABITAT Brussels
9:30 a.m. Statement by Deputy Rafael Machuca Zelaya, Regional Council for the Americas of the Global Group
9:40 a.m. Statement by Deputy Peter Götz, Vice-President for Europe of the Global Group of Parliamentarians on Habitat
9:50 a.m. Statement by Senator Rodolfo Biazón, Regional Council for Asia of the Global Group
10:00 a.m. Statement by the Regional Council for Africa of the Global Group
10:10 a.m. Statement by the Regional Council for Oceania of the Global Group
10:20 a.m. Presentation of the Draft Declaration of Principles and Commitments of the Fourth World Forum of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat by Deputy Peter Götz, co-chair of the World Forum of Parliamentarians on Habitat
10:40 a.m. Parliamentary Debate
12:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Program of Activities 2003-2005 of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
Organization of the Fifth World Forum and the Fifteenth Meeting of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, and address by the Representative of the Host Parliament
1:45 p.m. Renewal of the Board of Directors of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat for the period 2003-2005, and address by the President-elect of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
2:00 p.m. Closing ceremony of the Fourth World Forum and the Fourteenth Meeting of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
Closing address of the Fourth World Forum and Fourteenth Meeting of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, by Hon. Lawyer Oscar López Velarde Vega, President of the Consultative Council of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
3:00-4:00 p.m. Boattrip on the river Spree
Accreditation and registration of participants

16. Accreditation and registration of participants, and delivery of documents, will take place on May 11-14, 2003. The place designated for that purpose will be on Sunday in the conference hotels, from Monday to Wednesday in the Reichstagsbuilding, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. General information on the event will also be provided at the Registration Desk.

Registration forms can be found attached to this information. Registration forms and any other correspondence regarding the Forum should be sent directly to the Host Committee of the Republic of Germany. All correspondence regarding hotel confirmation forms should be sent directly to the respective hotel, with a copy to the Host Committee of the Republic of Germany.

The Secretary of the Global Parliamentarians webpage
www.senado.gob.mx/habitat

17. Participants are requested to submit their accreditation credentials through a letter written by the respective Parliament or by the corresponding institution or organization and addressed to the Chair of the Fourth World Forum of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.

18. During the World Forum sessions, access by special guests and observers will be permitted in the places assigned for such purpose.

19. In order to cover the expenses stemming from outfitting of the meeting room, interpretation of the plenary meetings into English, French, German and Spanish, technical and secretarial support, cafeteria services and lunch, stationery and documentation, which are essential for the organization and holding of the Fourth World Forum of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, a € 200.00 contribution in cash is required from each participant. This should be paid at the Registration Desk and the respective receipt will be provided by German Bundestag.
List of participants

20. After the opening ceremony of the Fourth World Forum, when registration has been completed, a provisional list of participants will be distributed, based on the replies received and the registrations made.

Parliamentary Rostrum

21. Statements in the Parliamentary Rostrum to comment on parliamentarians’ experiences and concerns at national level regarding the situation of legislation on human settlements, urban development and housing, as well as on the topic of the Fourth World Forum, may run for a maximum of 10 minutes each. This time-frame may be adjusted depending on the number of participants; to that end, preference will be given to one statement per country, based on the list of participants.

It is recommended that parliamentarians advise the Chair of the Fourth World Forum as soon as possible of their interest in taking part in the Parliamentary Rostrum, in order to organize the corresponding rounds of statements.

Parliamentarians may make statements in writing and it is recommended they submit a copy of their country’s legislation on human settlements, urban development and housing to the Chair of the Fourth World Forum.

Distribution of documentation

22. Upon registration at the Registration Desk, the Chair of the Fourth World Forum will distribute the documentation supporting analysis and discussion during the event to each of the participants.

Distribution of special documents

23. Participants are requested to submit to the Chair of the Fourth World Forum any special documents they plan to distribute. Approximately 100 copies should be delivered to the Secretariat of the Registration Desk. In view of the fact that there will be no translation service for special documents, it is suggested they be submitted in their original language, be translated into English and, if possible, also into French and Spanish.
Official languages

24. There will be simultaneous interpretation into English, French, German and Spanish during regular hours at the plenary sessions of the Fourth World Forum and the Fourteenth Meeting of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

Information on the Fourth World Forum

25. All correspondence regarding the organization of and participation in the Fourth World Forum of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, as well as requests for general information should be addressed to:

Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.

Senator Ernesto Gil Elorduy,
President of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and
President of the Fourth World Forum

Francisco Bautista González
Private Secretary of Senator Ernesto Gil Elorduy
E-mail: fbautista.apri@senado.gob.mx

Reforma 10, Piso 17, Oficina 7,
Colonia Centro
Delegación Cuauhtémoc,
Mexico, D.F. 06018

Tel. (52-55) 345-3070
Fax (52-55) 345-3599
E-mail: jgil.spri@senado.gob.mx
All correspondence regarding registration for the Forum, reconfirmation of hotel reservations, and substantive and logistic affairs should be directed to the Secretariat of the World Group and to the Host Committee of the Republic of Germany to:

Deputy Peter Götz, MP  
President for Europe of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and Co-chair of the Fourth World Forum.

Contact may be established through the German Host Parliament Bundestag:

Platz der Republik 1  
D-11011 Berlín  
Germany  
Tel. (49-30) 22774928  
(49-30) 22776862  
E-mail: peter.goetz@bundestag.de

Bettina Giesecke (49-30) 227-35326
Joachim Wagner (49-30) 227-33742  joachim.wagner@bundestag.de
Matthias Lange  (49-30) 227-33588  matthias.lange@bundestag.de
Information on accommodation and tourist services

26. All inquiries and correspondence regarding accommodation should be sent directly to the hotel:

Park Inn Hotel
Alexanderplatz (formerly “Forum Hotel”)
10178 Berlin
Tel. +49-30 / 2389-0 Fax: +4930 / 2389-4305
hotel@park-inn-alexanderplatz.de
www.parkinns.com
150 rooms available for “Habitat”

Westin Grand Hotel
Friedrichstrasse 158-164,
10117 Berlin
Deutschland
Tel. +49 (30) 2027-3420 Fax: +49 (30) 2027-3419
Info@westin-grand.de
25 rooms available for “Habitat”

Hotel Berlin
Lützowplatz 17
10785 Berlin
Tel. +4930 / 2605-2700 Fax: +4930 / 2605-2715
hotel-berlin@blueband.de
100 rooms available for “Habitat”
Travel information

27. **Passport.**- Check requirements with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through its Embassy in the respective country.

28. **Health and safety.**- The organization of the World Forum cannot accept any responsibility whatsoever for any accidents that might occur. Participants are recommended to take out an insurance in their own countries, especially with regard to medical expenses, personal accidents and baggage.

29. **Climate.**- The World Forum is to take place on May (Spring), in the city of Berlin located at the North East of Germany. Expected average temperature would be 20 to 25 Celsius degrees (68-77 Fahrenheit degrees).

30. **Dress for the event.**- Informal dress will be required during World Forum sessions, with the exception of the opening and closing ceremonies, when formal dress is recommended.

31. A detailed administrative guide with information on the Forum will be sent a few weeks before the event begins to all participants who are duly confirmed and registered.