

**The Report of the Portfolio Committee on Housing: The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat Forum: Rabat, Morocco - 10- 12 November 2005**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The Portfolio Committee Housing was represented by the Honourable , Mr. L. J. Modisenyane. MP on behalf of the Chairperson of the Portfolio who was invited to attend the forum. This Forum was attended by the Members of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat group in the City of Rabat Morocco on 10, 11 and 12 November 2005.
- 1.2. The objective of the forum is to support the World-wide agreement of the Habitat agenda of the United Nations. There is continuity from forums held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996, in Cancun, Mexico in 1998, in Manila, the Philippines in 2000 and the City of Berlin, Germany 2003.
- 1.3. The Global group remains committed to direct our efforts in legislative scope to help implement the Universal objectives of sustainable development, human settlements, adequate housing for all and respect to environment.

Other countries e.g. Sweden, have Green parties who are totally committed to the protection of the environment.

**2. Cross Cutting Issues**

- 2.1. National disasters affect the whole World.
- 2.2. Root causes to the shortage of shelter
  - 2.2.1. Migration of people
  - 2.2.2. Population growth
  - 2.2.3. Poor delivery of services
  - 2.2.4. Outmoded equipment to produce *food*
  - 2.2.5. Rapid urbanisation, People in search for work and better living conditions.
- 2.3. All the cross-cutting issues affect shortage of shelter

### **3. Observations**

- 3.1. Discussion groups were divided according to regions. The African group was well represented. Under the SADC group some countries have taken the Forum very seriously e.g. Kenya, Namibia, Swaziland, and Angola. MP's from these countries had secretarial support.

### **4. Declaration**

The Portfolio Committee attaches the declaration on the Principles and Commitments of the V Global Parliamentarians on Habitat Forum as an annexure to this report.

### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1. That the S.A. Parliament be represented in the VI Global Parliamentarians on Habitat Forum which will be held in Vancorvour, Canada in June 2006.
- 5.2. That Parliament gives support to the Principles contained in the Declaration.

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## GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT

### DECLARATION OF THE PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS OF THE V GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT FORUM

#### PRINCIPLES

WE AFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN WELL BEING AND TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR HABITAT.

WE ENDORSE THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER IN RELATION TO THE SUBJECTS AND COMMITMENTS ACQUIRED IN PREVIOUS GLOBAL FORA.

WE REITERATE THAT THE GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT GROUP HAS EFFICIENT MEANS TO LEAD THE EFFORTS IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER WORLD-WIDE ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES THAT SHARE THE INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES OF OUR ORGANIZATION NAMELY THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE LAWS OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL AND RESPECT TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE TODAY IS THE LEGISLATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS, PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS OF THE PLAN OF GLOBAL ACTION, ADOPTED DURING THE SECOND HABITAT CONFERENCE AND ALSO THE FOURTH GLOBAL FORUM, AS WELL AS THE CONTAINED PREVIOUS WORK IN THE DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE 2001. IT IS IMPORTANT TO STRESS THAT THESE DOCUMENTS RESPECT TOTALLY THE LEGAL SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH



## GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT

COUNTRY THROUGH AMENDMENTS AND MEASURES THAT EFFICIENTLY REGULATE THE PUBLIC POLICIES OF HOUSING AND URBANISM.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCILS, WHEN HAVING A MORE DIRECT AND PERMANENT CONTACT WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE DIFFERENT CONGRESSES AND AUTHORITIES FROM EACH REGION, FACILITATE AND PROMOTE THE COOPERATION, THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND PROVIDE A CORRECT STANDARDIZATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES AS WELL AS OF LEGAL MEASURES THAT HELP TO THE PLANNING PROCESS.

CONSCIOUS OF THE PREVAILING NECESSITY OF OUR COUNTRIES TO ADOPT AND TO FORTIFY LAWS RELATED TO THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, SUCH AS PLANNING, PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH AND POLICIES OF CONSTRUCTION, AS WELL AS ON OTHER SUBJECTS THAT COUNT ON A HIGH LEVEL OF RELEVANCE FOR OUR GLOBAL GROUP, WE AFFIRM OUR CONVICTION THAT THE CONCEPT OF GOOD PLANNING IS RELATED DIRECTLY TO THE APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES, AND ADEQUATE HOUSING; SOCIAL PARTICIPATION IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR TO BE ABLE TO WORK AND TO DEVELOP NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION AS WELL AS THE COMMITMENTS MADE DURING THE 5TH GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT FORUM. CONCOMITANTLY, WE ASKED THE UNITED NATIONS TO REVIEW THE IMPACT OF THE GATT-WTO TO THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES PARTICULARLY AS IT AFFECTS THE RAPID URBANIZATION IN THEIR CITIES.

### COMMITMENTS

WE WILL WORK TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY WITH EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL.

SEGMENTS OF THE SOCIETY, FAVORING SOCIAL INTEGRATION.

WE RECOMMEND ALL COUNTRIES TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES AND  
BLOC WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

WE PROPOSE THAT THE GOVERNMENTS PROMOTE WITHIN THE  
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AGREEMENTS THAT ALLOW THE  
PAYMENT OF THE EXTERNAL DEBT THROUGH HOUSING (INVESTMENT ON  
HOUSING, HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND BASIC PUBLIC SERVICES), SUCH AS IT  
HAS BEEN AGREED BY THE UNESCO IN THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN EDUCATION  
AND DEBT.



## GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT

WE RECOMMEND ALL COUNTRIES TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING, DEFINE THEIR APPROPRIATE OBJECTIVES ON CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS AND ACCESIBILITY TO DIFERENT SOCIAL CATEGORIES. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE EVALUATED BY THEIR PARLIAMENTS.

WE RECOMMEND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SHALL ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR DEALING WITH NATURAL CATASTROPHIES AND DISASTERS TO HELP AFFECTED INHABITANS AS WELL AS POOR COUNTRIES.

ALSO WE RECOMMEND THE CREATION OF A FINANCING MECHANISM (BANK OR FUND) IN ADDRESSING CATASTROPHES IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.

FOLLOWING THE COMMITMENTS OF THE IVTH FORUM IN BERLIN, GERMANY, WE DECIDED TO INSIST ON THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING THE KYOTO PROTOCOL.

WE PROPOSE THAT THE THEMES OF THE VITH FORUM SHALL INCLUDE WATER AND NATURAL DISASTERS.

**RABAT, KINGDOM OF MOROCCO, NOVEMBER 12, 2005.**