



# Global Parliamentarians on **HABITAT**

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**7<sup>th</sup> Global Forum**  
**Global Parliamentarians on Habitat**  
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## **Closing Remarks**

**20 May 2011**

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The spoken word prevails!

GOOD LAWS FOR A BETTER HABITAT

Let me say thank you at the end of a successful conference. I thank in particular Luka Bebic, President of the Croatian Parliament, Zvonimir Vrančić, Mayor of the City of Zadar and his Vice-Mayor Drazen Grgurovic for the great hospitality we have experienced in this beautiful country and in this great city.

My special thanks also go to my colleague Jerko Rosin and his dedicated team. They ensured that we could hold a successful conference which we will remember as a special highlight in the history of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.

Yesterday and today under the leadership of our friend Jerko Rosin, we have worked hard, so my special thanks also go to all those who helped in preparing the Declaration of Zadar and the workshops. My special thanks go to the experts, **Prof. Luigi Fusco Girard** and **Mr. Stjepo Butijer**, and to the panelists who have enriched our workshops with their expertise.

I thank you all, that you have shown so much commitment in dealing with the difficult challenges which lie ahead of us. We also want to work hard in the future. The homework that lies ahead for us Parliamentarians is complex and large. We have a global financial and economic crisis. We will meet them. We have a global climate crisis. This will remain a challenge in the long term future. It must be our concern, as responsible parliamentarians, to combine economic development and environmental concerns in such a way that good laws result. In this, we must place the people at the centre of our efforts.

We have received this mandate from the voters in our countries. We, the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, see this as an obligation to future generations.

In the future, many interesting international tasks await the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.

In October this year, World Habitat Day will be celebrated in Mexico. We would like to use this opportunity to organize a meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and participate at the official event of UN-HABITAT.

The following year, UN-HABITAT plans to hold their 6th World Urban Forum in Naples, Italy. We will actively participate in this important conference, as in previous years and if UN-HABITAT should ask us, it will be our pleasure to again organize a round table of parliamentarians.

In addition to this, the world event Rio+25 is being planned by the United Nations. It will take place in Rio de Janeiro. We should actively contribute to this event also.

As I mentioned earlier, in 2012, the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat will exist for 25 years. We will celebrate this anniversary next year.

Dear Colleagues,

When we look at the time ahead of us, you can see that there is plenty to do for our organization.

The 7th Global Forum here in Zadar was an important milestone in our work, which we have successfully concluded with the Declaration of Zadar.

At the end of this event it falls to me to point out to you that we will now meet for the Family Photo of all participants. I would also like to ask the regional presidents for a joint photo.

I would like to thank all who have contributed in front and behind the scenes to the great success of our forum, the team around our Secretary General Birte Leinius, around Ivana Liovic, Boris Artic and Anita Grzan-Martinovic. I would also like to thank the translators, together with the students from the University of Zadar and the many other helpers who assisted us. Their preparation of the conference has been excellent and they have ensured a smooth running of the forum. You have done an excellent job, thank you!

We thank Mayor Vrancic for the great hospitality and we would like to say to him: we are looking forward to coming back to Zadar.

I wish all of us a pleasant stay in Croatia. We have the opportunity to learn more about this god-blessed country today and tomorrow during the excursions. We look forward to it.

It was nice that you were all there and contributed so actively to the conference. That is why you all deserve a heartfelt thank you!

The official program of the 7th Global Forum is now over.

Thank you.