



Parliamentarians for Global Action
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

*Mobilizing Legislators as Champions for Human
Rights, Democracy and Peace*

WWW.PGACTION.ORG

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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PGA, a non-governmental, multi-party, international network of legislators acting in their individual capacity, informs and mobilizes parliamentarians in all regions of the world to advocate for human rights and the Rule of Law, democracy, human security, inclusion and gender equality.

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¹ The name of this programme was changed from 'Peace and Democracy' on 18 November 2018 to better reflect Programme goals and priorities under PGA's new Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

² The name of this programme was changed from 'Gender, Equality and Population'

PGA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2018

Dear PGA Friends,

The year 2018 was defined by many achievements by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), the largest non-governmental, multi-party international network of individual legislators with more than 1,350 members in 140 parliaments around the world committed to human rights and the Rule of Law, democracy, human security, inclusion and gender equality.

We are delighted to share with you our efforts towards a more equitable, just and peaceful world, with growth and progress in each of our three programmes: [International Law and Human Rights](#), [International Peace and Security](#) and [Gender, Equality and Inclusion](#).

PGA is excited to begin our 2019-2021 strategic plan which builds on our 40 years of experience and incorporates results, innovations and lessons-learned, and includes the introduction of a new Global Parliamentary Campaign for Democratic Renewal and Human Rights. This new campaign will promote norms, regulations and best practices reinforcing and protecting civil and political democratic space; and protect the human rights of democracy activists, especially parliamentarians in opposition, women in politics, minorities and vulnerable groups.

The promotion of Gender Equality is an important theme across the organisation: in our governance, structure, administration and in all Programmes and Campaigns. Since its inception, PGA has played a pivotal role in the global movement for gender equality. In the organisation's governance structure, the PGA Executive Committee maintains a 40:60 gender ratio and National Groups must have gender balance in addition to cross-party representation.

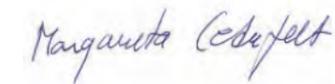
The impact of PGA's work relies on the commitment of parliamentarians to advocating for prevention of, and accountability for, human rights violations, in turn contributing to the reinforcement of the Rule of Law both at the international level and within national systems. It is the very active engagement of committed Members that enables PGA to be effective in its campaigns.

A highlight of the past year was the 40th Annual Forum of PGA and 10th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC) in Kyiv, Ukraine. The two-day conference brought together 200 participants and provided a unique opportunity to discuss the ICC on the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute. It also built momentum to advance ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute in the host country. The event concluded with the adoption of the [Kyiv Plan of Action](#), through which the parliamentarians in attendance committed themselves to take steps towards the universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute system of the ICC in their respective jurisdictions.

Thank you to all of our PGA friends for your continued encouragement and support of the PGA mission *to contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world*. With your help, we achieved significant results across all of our campaigns to end injustice and oppression around the world. I invite you now to continue learning about our significant achievements in the following 2018 Annual Report.

On behalf of PGA, I am grateful to our invaluable network of parliamentarians and our steadfast partners and look forward to continued success in 2019.

Faithfully,



Margareta Cederfelt, MP (Sweden)
President, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)
& Vice-President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



2018

2018 IN REVIEW – A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

2018 was characterized by significant achievements of PGA Campaigns and, at the same time, by increasing challenges and risks, of which PGA took stock for a new Strategic Plan 2019-21 that the PGA Staff elaborated, the PGA International Council discussed and the PGA Board adopted.

Oppressive regimes enhanced their presence and spheres of influence, and democratic principles have been under attack in many regions of the world, from Burundi to the Philippines, from the DR Congo to Nicaragua and Venezuela, just to mention a few situations.

Armed conflict continued to disproportionately affect civilian populations, with humanitarian catastrophes that continued to affect Syria, Yemen and the Rohingya populations in Myanmar, in large part deported into Bangladesh.

Despite these challenges, the fight for human rights, peace, justice, equality and inclusion continued, and PGA advanced its Campaigns' goals and strategies, albeit facing risks and obstacles in many countries targeted by the organization.

Yet, thanks to the decisive action of PGA Members, assisted by the PGA Secretariat in partnership with local civil society, the following results were achieved by PGA Campaigns in 2018:

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

The Central African Republic (CAR) became the 182nd State Party to the Biological Weapons Convention thanks to the leadership initiative of Dep. Beatrice Epaye, Chair of the PGA CAR National Group, while Niue ratified the BWC with direct contribution from PGA Members in the Pacific Island region and Tanzania's Parliament passed a ratification bill upon initiative of National Group Chair Hon. Jasson Rweikiza, MP.

ARMS TRADE TREATY

Brazil, Suriname, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique brought membership in the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to the critical "quota 100" as a result of the strong pro-ratification initiatives by PGA Members Sen. Ana Amélia Lemos, Dep. Aluísio Mendes and Dep. Jean Wyllys (Chair, National group) in Brazil; Dep. Hon. Patrick Kensenhuis (Chair, National group) in Suriname; Dr. Suzy Barbosa, MP (PGA Board Member) in Guinea Bissau; Dep. Antonio Niquice (PGA Board Member) and Dep. Ana Rita Sithole (Chair, National group) in Mozambique.

ROME STATUTE

Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic Parliaments adopted laws that fully implement the Rome Statute's obligations to cooperate with the ICC as a result of legislative initiatives tabled by PGA Members Dip. Ronny Monge (PGA Board Member, Costa Rica), Sen.

Julio Cesar Valentin (Dominican Rep.) and Dip. Ito Bisono (Chair, PGA Int. Council), who made use of the text of the "reference/model law" on domestic implementation of the Rome Statute drafted by the PGA Secretariat.

The Central African Republic's Parliament adopted a law on procedure and evidence for the new Special Criminal Chamber, which reflects all international standards of the Rome Statute, thanks to the leadership efforts of PGA Member Dep. Laurent Ngon-Baba, who was elected Speaker of Parliament at the of 2018.

ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

The new Government of Malaysia announced that it decided to table to Parliament a bill for the abolition of the death penalty and to adopt the executive decision to accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC: Such pivotal results were achieved thanks to the mobilization of the multi-party PGA Malaysia National Group under the wise leadership of PGA Board Member Hon. Kula Segaran, MP, who, in mid-2018, became Minister for Human Resources.

The Parliament of Burkina Faso abolished the death penalty for ordinary offenses with an important contribution by PGA members led by Dep. Reine Benaou Sakandé.

The Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of India hosted for the first time a round-table on abolition of capital punishment thanks to the leadership efforts of PGA Board Member Hon. Tariq Anwar, MP, in which all participating parliamentarians concurred with the findings of a research by the National Law University of Delhi proving that the death penalty should be abolished because it is almost exclusively executed on indigent, poor or marginalized convicted persons in India.

CHILD, EARLY AND FORCE MARRIAGE

Leading PGA Members from Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi and Trinidad and Tobago made significant contributions to reforms in Civil and Family Codes outlawing the practice of Child, Early and Force Marriage, while PGA National Group of Brazil made an essential contribution to the passage by the Chamber of Deputies of a bill abolishing all exceptions to the prohibition to child-marriage in Brazilian law.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

Pakistan's Parliament passed the Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Bill 2018, which was introduced and championed by longstanding PGA member Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar, MP, who took action as a result of briefings and information provided by the PGA SOGI Campaign.

Chile's Parliament adopted a new gender-identity law with the strong support of PGA Board Member Dip. Tucapel Jimenez: the new legislation enshrines the right of every person to recognition and protection of their right to gender-identity, to be identified with the gender of their choice, and to freely develop their personality.

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SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY (CONTD.)

Policy and legislative initiatives on non-discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) had significant progress in Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mozambique, Nepal and the Seychelles with the active engagement of PGA Members.

PROTECTING THE OCEANS

Pilot-initiatives by PGA Members under the new Campaign for the Protection of the Oceans in the European Parliament contributed to the process of Spain's ratification of the Cape Town Agreement (on the safety of fishing vessels), a key tool to combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing

SPECIAL APPEALS

The ongoing work by PGA to protect the human rights of parliamentarians and to uphold democratic principles had important effects on the situations in the Philippines, and Venezuela. PGA's action – supported by partner institutions like the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – had significant impact in the Maldives, where long-standing PGA Member Hon. Ahmed Mahloof, MP, was freed from politically-motivated criminal charges as a result of the electoral process: Hon. Mahloof emphasised, on many occasions, the contribution that PGA made to support the Maldives struggle for democracy and human rights.

All these results, and many others, were obtained by PGA Members and their allies before, during and after PGA events carried out in all regions of the world, on the basis of a strategic calendar of activities that our Secretariat develops on the basis of needs-assessment analyses, in consultation with PGA members, partners and strategic stakeholders. These activities included the 2018 Annual Forum, which is the only event to which all PGA Members are invited every year.

PGA celebrated its 40th Annual Forum and, for the first time since the network was established, the Forum was held in a Parliament of Eastern Europe, the Rada of Ukraine in Kyiv. This was an achievement in and of itself due to the fact that Ukraine is affected by two armed conflicts and by the unlawful annexation of one of its territories.

The Forum coincided with the 10th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court & the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC), a project of PGA that has created, maintained and increased a global parliamentary constituency for the ICC, the only permanent international jurisdiction over the most serious crimes of international concern: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression.

While the Kyiv proceedings highlighted the serious difficulties of the ICC in accomplishing its unique mandate due to external and internal factors (e.g. attacks by a super-power and controversial investigative and jurisprudential outcomes), parliamentarians from all regions of the world expressed their strong commitment to atrocity-prevention and justice for victims by adopting the Kyiv Plan of Action on the Universality and Effectiveness of the Rome Statute system against impunity.

Most importantly, PGA Board Members from

Malaysia and Ukraine respectively announced Malaysia's imminent accession to the Rome Statute and a joint-plan with civil society for an intense campaign to secure Ukraine's ratification in the second half of 2019, when the ICC clause in the reformed Constitution will enter into force.

The Forum in Kyiv and its action plan against impunity would not have been possible without the leadership efforts of PGA Board Member and Chair of the PGA Ukraine National Group. Hon. Hrigory Nemyria, MP.

PGA incorporated all the lessons described above and 40 years of experience into a newly formulated theory of change and three-year Strategic Plan (2019-21) that reflected significant input from the PGA Board and Council, PGA member-parliamentarians around the world, partners, and donors, including the contribution of an expert provided by PGA's core donor, Sida.

We look forward to working with all these stakeholders as we begin to implement the plan in 2019.

Faithfully,



David Donat Cattin (Ph.D., Law)
Secretary-General, Parliamentarians for Global Action



PGA ACTIVITY CALENDAR

2018

FEBRUARY

15-16 Participation of PGA in the launch of the 20th Anniversary of the Rome Statute of the ICC, organised by the CICC
The Hague, The Netherlands

MARCH

1 First Biannual Meeting of the PGA UN Committee
Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN, New York

12 Mission of PGA President to meet with Ukrainian Speaker of Parliament and CAP-ICC Organizing Committee
Parliament of Ukraine, Kiev

15 PGA intervention in the Special Working Session on Strengthening Cooperation with the International Criminal Court, Committee of Juridical and Political Affairs, Organisation of American States (OAS)
Washington DC

19-23 First Biannual Meeting of the PGA UN Committee
UN Headquarters, New York

21-23 Participation of PGA in Seminar on the promotion of the Universality of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), organized by the Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

APRIL

3 Parliamentary Consultation on Addressing Inequalities of the Criminal Justice System
New Delhi, India

9-10 PGA participation to the Regional Congress against the death penalty, organised by ECPM
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

18 PGA participates in Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions: Panel discussion on LGBTI inclusion with parliamentarians, NHRIs and business leaders
London, United Kingdom

26-27 PGA Regional Pacific-Island States Parliamentary Workshop on Mobilizing Parliamentarians to Advocate for Improved Compliance with the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and promoting more effective participation by women MPs in Defence, Security, Interior Committees
Apia, Samoa

MAY

7 Parliamentary Delegation and Consultations on the Death Penalty
in partnership with ECPM, Jakarta, Indonesia

17-18 Seminar for Parliamentarians and National Human Rights Institutions on Equality and Non-Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in Latin America and the Caribbean
Buenos Aires, Argentina

30 Meeting of PGA's National Group in Canada hosted by Mr. Randy Boissonnault, Member of Parliament & Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on LGBTQ2 Issues
Ottawa, Canada

MAY

- 31 Launch of the Handbook on Parliamentary Action for the Prevention of Mass Atrocities and Violent Extremism, in partnership with All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and other Crimes Against Humanity [and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights (RWCHR)]

Parliament of Canada, Ottawa

JUNE

- 1-2 Regional Parliamentary Seminar: Promoting the abolition of the death penalty in Africa: The Role of Parliamentarians, in partnership with La Culture pour la Paix et la Justice (CPJ ASBL) & Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM)

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

- 8 Breakfast Meeting with UN Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights and Member States of the LGBT Core Group of the UN

hosted by the Permanent Mission of The Netherlands to the United Nations

- 8 Strategy Meeting on the Oceans Campaign: ratification of the Cape Town Agreement / Ending Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations

- 8 Second Biannual UN Committee Meeting

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, New York

- 18 PGA Working Lunch on the Pacific Island States' contribution to the universality of the Rome Statute of the ICC in the margins of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (35th session, opening day)

European Parliament, Brussels

JUNE

- 18-29 PGA participation at PoA - Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects

UN Headquarters, New York

- 25-27 Ms. Kasthuri Patto, MP Malaysia and PGA member, participates in Girls Not Brides' Global Meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

JULY

- 17 20th Anniversary of the Rome Statute of the ICC

ICC Premises, The Hague – PGA co-sponsorship of event in UN Premises, New York

- 18 Forward-looking conference on the 20th Anniversary of the Statute of the International Criminal Court - organized by the PGA European Parliament and Italy Groups in the same venue where the Statute was opened for signature

Campidoglio, City Hall of Rome, Italy

- 24-26 Participation at the Equality & Justice Alliance Experts Roundtable on Reform of Discriminatory Laws in the Commonwealth

London, United Kingdom

SEPTEMBER

- 6 20th Anniversary of the Rome Statute: challenges in the protection of human rights, co-organized by the PGA National group in Uruguay, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay and the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

Montevideo, Uruguay

SEPTEMBER

17-18 PGA Regional Africa Anglophone/Francophone Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)

Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

18-19 PGA Regional Anglophone Workshop on Mobilizing Parliamentarians to Advocate for Improved Compliance with the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and promoting more effective participation by women MPs in Defence, Security and Interior Committees

Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

OCTOBER

4-5 Parliamentary Seminar on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the Fight against Impunity in Central-African Republic

Bangui, Central African Republic

10 Participation by PGA in World Day against the Death Penalty: screening and debate on the topic of capital punishment in Pakistan

European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

17-18 Participation by PGA in G7 Global Partnership Biological Security Working Group (BSWG) Meetings

Québec City, Canada

18-19 Sub-regional Working Group on the Implementation of the Rome Statute

Parliament of Honduras, Tegucigalpa

OCTOBER

21-22 PGA Lusophone Parliamentary Workshop on Mobilizing Parliamentarians to Advocate for Improved Compliance with the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and promoting more effective participation by women MPs in Defence/Security/Interior Committees

Bissau, Guinea Bissau

23-24 PGA Lusophone Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention as well as Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)

Bissau, Guinea Bissau

24-25 High-Level Regional Cooperation Seminar: Opportunities for cooperation and exchange of experiences at 20 years of the Rome Statute

Tbilisi, Georgia

30-31 Regional Parliamentary Seminar: Promoting the abolition of the death penalty in Asia: The Role of Parliamentarians

in partnership with ADPAN and Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

30-31 Participation at PANCAP's Regional Meeting for Advancing Recommendations for Addressing Gaps in the Human Rights Response under the Justice For All Programme

Kingston, Jamaica

NOVEMBER

16-17 40th PGA Annual Forum: 10th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC), in partnership with the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL)

Kyiv, Ukraine

19 Parliamentary Roundtable on Best Practices and Lessons Learned to Advance Equality and Non-Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Ukraine

Kyiv, Ukraine

NOVEMBER

26 PGA Parliamentary Workshop on Engaging Parliamentarians and Policy Makers in Jordan and Somalia on Biological Non-proliferation and Promoting Bio-risk Management Best Practices

Amman, Jordan

DECEMBER

4-7 PGA Delegation to Annual Meeting of States Parties of BWC

Geneva, Switzerland

5-12 PGA participation and side-events to the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC

The Hague

PGA GOVERNANCE AND ADVISORY MEETINGS

JUNE 9 Executive Committee Meeting

PGA Headquarters, New York

NOV 18 PGA's International Council and Executive Committee Meetings

Kyiv, Ukraine



For a list of upcoming PGA events, please visit:
www.pgaction.org/news/activity-calendars/2019.html

OUR VISION

To contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world.

OUR MISSION

PGA, a non-governmental, multi-party, international network of legislators acting in their individual capacity, informs and mobilizes parliamentarians to advocate for human rights and the Rule of Law, human security, inclusion and gender equality.



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Members of Parliament (MPs) have a key role to play in national and global efforts to promote and protect human rights, democracy and peace: in their capacity as lawmakers, in their Government-oversight functions, and as democratically-elected representatives of the people who play important leadership roles in their communities.

By using a peer-to-peer methodology and country-specific strategies, the PGA Secretariat and leading members work together to educate, sensitize, build the technical capacity and strengthen the political will of parliamentarians in order to take ownership, concrete initiatives and legislative actions to achieve results on PGA's campaign objectives.

PGA undertakes activities, such as convening national and regional parliamentary workshops and providing follow-up technical assistance to MPs, resulting in the targeted MPs having the capacity, knowledge and awareness of a Campaign issue, which in turn leads to targeted MPs having the political will to take action. PGA helps create an environment conducive to positive changes, especially through activities that facilitate connections between civil society and parliamentarians, as well as building bridges between domestic and international policy-makers and stakeholders.

While promoting the realization of this human rights-centred concept of Rule of Law through its vision, mission statement and strategic plan, parliamentarians engaged by PGA are empowered to better perform their constitutional prerogatives as lawmakers, policy-makers and defenders of democratic institutions.

OUR PROGRAMMES AND CAMPAIGNS:

INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

- Campaign on Universality and Effectiveness of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) System
- Campaign on the Abolition of the Death Penalty
- Campaign on the Protection of the Oceans and Implementation of SDG 14

INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY PROGRAMME

- Campaign on Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)
- Campaign on Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Improved Regulation of the International Arms Trade to Prevent Human Rights Abuses

GENDER, EQUALITY & INCLUSION PROGRAMME

- Campaign on Ending Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM)
- Campaign on Ending Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

CORE PROGRAMME

- Campaign on Democratic Renewal and Human Rights (in development)

OVERVIEW OF PGA MEMBERSHIP

2018

OVERVIEW OF PGA MEMBERSHIP

PGA membership is available to sitting members of Parliament committed to the vision and values of PGA.

Individual members participate actively in fulfilling the organization's vision, mission and campaign objectives and are empowered as agents of change.

Members have increased capacity and benefit from an enhanced understanding of the issues through access to the skills and expertise of the Secretariat and from collaborating with fellow PGA members.

In order to qualify for PGA membership, the country's Parliament must adhere to all of the following criteria:

- the members must be from a freely elected parliament
- the election should be open to more than one party, or to those who have no party
- the Parliament must evidence an actual ability to engage in free debate and to question the Executive



(AS OF DEC. 2018)

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

1,365

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTS:

140

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS:

129

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS:

5

OBSERVER STATUS PARLIAMENTS:

6

THE FIVE REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS ARE:
ECOWAS PARLIAMENT, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, PARLACEN, PARLATINO,
PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

THE SIX OBSERVER STATUS PARLIAMENTS ARE:
ARUBA, COOK ISLANDS, NIUE, PALESTINE, SOMALIA, SUDAN



MALE
915

FEMALE
450

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS

20

OBSERVER COUNTRIES

14



PGA PRESENCE WORLDWIDE

(AS OF DECEMBER 31ST 2018)

* denotes PGA National Group
 ** reflected in national lists

AFRICA (501 MEMBERS, 37 COUNTRIES)

1. Angola	2	25. Nigeria	30
2. Benin	4	27. São Tomé and Príncipe	3
3. Botswana	2	28. Senegal	13
4. Burkina Faso*	15	29. Sierra Leone	11
5. Cameroon	5	30. South Africa*	16
6. Cape Verde*	26	31. South Sudan	3
7. Central African Republic*	31	32. Swaziland	1
8. Chad	4	33. Tanzania*	14
9. Comoros	1	34. Togo	8
10. Cote d'Ivoire	9	35. Uganda*	41
11. DR Congo*	72	36. Zambia	2
12. Gabon	3	37. Zimbabwe	18
13. Gambia	2		
14. Ghana	27		
15. Guinea	3		
16. Guinea Bissau*	29		
17. Kenya*	41		
18. Liberia	4		
19. Madagascar	2		
20. Malawi	15		
21. Mali	4		
22. Mauritania	2		
23. Mozambique*	28		
24. Namibia*	7		
25. Niger	3		

AMERICAS (356 MEMBERS, 29 COUNTRIES)

1. Antigua & Barbuda	1	26. Trinidad & Tobago*	19
2. Argentina*	37	27. United States	10
3. Barbados	2	28. Uruguay*	17
4. Belize	12	29. Venezuela*	19
5. Bolivia	6		
6. Brazil*	21		
7. Canada*	21		
8. Chile*	10		
9. Colombia	7		
10. Costa Rica	4		
11. Dominican Republic*	50		
12. Ecuador*	16		
13. El Salvador*	29		
14. Guatemala	3		
15. Guyana	3		
16. Haiti	13		
17. Honduras*	19		
18. Jamaica	1		
19. Mexico	2		
20. Nicaragua	1		
21. Panama	3		
22. Paraguay	12		
23. Peru	5		
24. Saint Lucia	1		
25. Suriname*	12		

ASIA (163 MEMBERS)		EUROPE (199 MEMBERS)	
1. Afghanistan	7	1. Albania*	14
2. Bangladesh	13	2. Armenia	2
3. Cambodia	1	3. Austria	3
4. India*	26	4. Azerbaijan	2
5. Indonesia	14	5. Belgium	7
6. Japan	13	6. Bosnia and Herzegovina	2
7. Kyrgyzstan	1	7. Denmark*	20
8. Malaysia*	27	8. Finland	5
9. Maldives	1	9. France	1
10. Mongolia	1	10. Georgia	1
11. Nepal	4	11. Germany	3
12. Pakistan*	14	12. Greece	2
13. Philippines	5	13. Ireland	8
14. Singapore	1	14. Italy*	8
15. Sri Lanka*	35	15. Lithuania	1
		16. Rep. of North Macedonia	1
		17. Malta	4
		18. Montserrat	1
		19. Netherlands	5
		20. Norway	7
		21. Poland	4
		22. Portugal	5
		23. Serbia	2
		24. Slovenia	2
		25. Spain	1
		26. Sweden*	11
		27. Switzerland	4
		28. Ukraine*	47
		29. United Kingdom*	26

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA (51)		THE PACIFIC (61 MEMBERS)	
1. Algeria	2	1. Australia*	14
2. Bahrain	1	2. Fiji	18
3. Iraq*	18	3. Kiribati	1
4. Jordan	6	4. Micronesia (Federated States of)	2
5. Morocco	7	5. New Zealand*	10
6. Oman	1	6. Papua New Guinea	1
7. Tunisia	8	7. Samoa	6
8. Turkey	1	8. Solomon Islands	2
9. Yemen	7	9. Tonga	4
		10. Tuvalu	3

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS (20)		OBSERVER COUNTRIES (14 MEMBERS)	
1. European Parliament*	18	1. Aruba	2
2. ECOWAS Parliament	**	2. Cook Islands	1
3. Pan-African Parliament	**	3. Niue	1
4. PARLACEN	1	4. Palestine	1
5. PARLATINO	1	5. Somalia	7
		6. Sudan	2

* denotes PGA National Group
 ** reflected in national lists

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PGA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Ms. Margareta Cederfelt
Sweden
President



Dip. Victor Orlando Bisonó
Dominican Republic
Chair of International Council



Ms. Petra Bayr, MP
Austria
Treasurer



2018 BOARD



Dip. Carla Pitiot
Argentina



Sen. Valerie Woods
Belize



Dip. Tucapel Jiménez Fuentes,
Chile



**Dep. Dieudonné Upira
Sunguma**
Democratic Rep. of Congo



Dip. Karina Sosa,
El Salvador



Ms. Barbara Lochbihler, MEP
European Parliament



Hon. Suzi Barbosa, MP
Guinea-Bissau



Shri Tariq Anwar, MP
India



Hon. Kula Segaran, MP
Malaysia



Hon. António Niquice,
Mozambique



Dr. Hryhoriy Nemyria, MP
Ukraine



Mr. Mark Pritchard, MP
United Kingdom

2018 INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Ms. Albana Vokshi, MP, Albania
Dip. Cornelia Schmidt Liermann, Argentina
Ms. Maria Vamvakinou, MP, Australia
Dep. Jean Wyllys, Brazil
Dep. Reine Sakande, Burkina Faso
Mr. Ali Ehsassi, MP, Canada
Dep. José Manuel Sanches Tavares, Cape Verde
Dep. Emilie Beatrice Epaye, Central African Republic
Sen. Thekys Mulaila, Democratic Republic of Congo
Ms. Carolina Magdalene Maier, MP, Denmark
Dip. Magda Rodríguez, Dominican Republic
Dip. Mario Tenorio, El Salvador
Ms. Ana Gomes, MEP, (Portugal), European Parliament

Shri Supriya Sadanand Sule, MP, India
Mr. Faig Al Sheikh Ali, MP, Iraq
Ms. Lia Quartapelle, MP, Italy
Hon. Millie Odhiambo, MP, Kenya
Dep. Ana Rita Sithole, Mozambique
Ms. Jacqui Dean, MP, New Zealand
Mr. Syed Naveed Qamar, MP, Pakistan
Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala, MP, Sri Lanka
Mr. Patrick Kensenhuis, MP, Suriname
Hon. Jasson Rweikiza, MP, Tanzania
Sen. Wade Mark, Trinidad and Tobago
Hon. Jacob Oboth-Oboth, MP, Uganda
Dip. Macarena Gelman, Uruguay
Dip. Armando Armas, Venezuela

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Dr. Hryhoriy Nemyria, MP, Ukraine

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Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Ukraine

UN SECRETARIAT AND AGENCIES

Mr. Adama Dieng
UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide

DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Development Advisory Committee (DAC) is a non-governing body designed to help PGA by providing strategic input, enhancing networking and goodwill, increasing visibility, and augmenting fundraising. DAC members are thought-leaders who share their insights and access to resources with PGA.

CHAIR

Ms. Minou Tavárez Mirabal, Dominican Republic

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Dr. Deborah Ruiz Verduzco, Mexico

Ambassador Martin Sajdik, Austria

Ms. Rebecca Shoot, United States

Judge Song Sang-Hyun, Republic of Korea

Ambassador James Wally Brewster, United States

Mr. Bob Satawake, United States



INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS

**2018
ACHIEVEMENTS**

CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

The campaign seeks to abolish or to restrict the use of the death penalty while addressing its discriminatory application against poor and marginalized groups.

The Goal of the *Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty* is a stronger, shared culture of legality and human rights where the death penalty has no place and justice is not revenge. To this end, PGA promotes the modification of national legal systems (including constitutions) and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (OP2 ICCPR). The campaign also encourages MPs to take action to support the UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The activism of PGA members has successfully contributed to reducing the scope of the death penalty, abolishing it altogether, blocking its reintroduction or the resumption of executions, or ratifying relevant international instruments in

Burkina Faso, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Suriname and Togo.

PGA members have led related initiatives in Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Kenya, and Uganda.

With the change of Government in Malaysia, prominent PGA Members formerly in opposition were able to advocate with the new Cabinet for a policy-determination to abolish the death penalty, which was publicly announced by the Minister of Law.

During a Parliamentary Consultation on *Addressing Inequalities of the Criminal Justice System* held in the Parliament of India in April 2018, parliamentarians and representatives of civil society discussed the inequalities associated with the use of the death penalty. This was the first time a roundtable discussion on the abolition of the death penalty has been held in the Indian Parliament building. Mr. Majeed Memon, MP from India, expressed his opposition to the death penalty and its use in India.

In June 2018, PGA held a regional parliamentary seminar entitled "Abolition of the death penalty in Africa: the role of parliamentarians" in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The objective of this event was to allow parliamentarians from West and Central Africa to share their experience and discuss the future of the abolitionist movement in the region. The seminar was held on the day following Burkina Faso's historic vote adopting a new Criminal Code abolishing the death penalty for ordinary crimes.



"When mistakes are made and negligence occurs this sentence is irreversible. If there is one case of an innocent being executed, we cannot excuse ourselves and our system needs to be blamed."

- MR. MAJEED MEMON, MP, INDIA



"We must work hand in hand to get rid of the colonial remnant that is capital punishment and develop regional norms to safeguard human rights in our region."

- HON. REINE BENA O SAKANDÉ, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BURKINA FASO, MEMBER OF THE ECOWAS PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, AND PGA MEMBER



Malaysian Minister of Law, Hon. Liew Vui Keong, commits to advocating for full abolition in Malaysia

CAMPAIGN ON THE PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 14

PGA's Parliamentary Campaign for Protection of the Oceans and Implementation of SDG 14 (to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources) became operational in mid-2018 with the support and encouragement of PGA Board Members. The Campaign seeks to mobilize parliamentarians to address Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing and human rights violations in the fishing industry and on the High Seas.

The goal of the Campaign, in line with the other campaigns of PGA's ILHRP, is to end impunity for crimes committed on and against the world's oceans and their related human rights violations through more transparency in the seafood industry. Specifically, the campaign aims to address IUU fishing that threatens the sustainability of the world's fisheries; posing an environmental hazard, and associated with numerous human rights violations.

A particular focus is to build political will and capacity for the national implementation of international agreements for that purpose, such as (i) the International Maritime Organization (IMO) *Cape Town Agreement (CTA)*; (ii) the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) *Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)*; and (iii) the International Labour Organization (ILO) *Work in Fishing Convention*.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

On 8 June 2018, PGA held its first Strategic Roundtable Discussion on IUU and the CTA, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the UN in partnership with The Pew Charitable Trust. Malaysian Minister of Human Resources, PGA Board Member,

Hon. Kula Segaran, expressed his support for CTA ratification. PGA's global membership was invited to raise awareness about IUU and related issues in their own countries and contribute towards ratification of the CTA.

MPs from Canada, the European Union, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Mozambique, India and Papua New Guinea have expressed willingness to work with PGA to raise this issue in their parliaments. In the European Parliament, PGA members have begun to engage in the submission of questions for answer in relation to the CTA.

In January 2018, Members of the European Parliament adopted a resolution on international ocean governance in the context of the 2030 SDGs. The Resolution focuses on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and is in line with the targets of the PGA Oceans Campaign. The PGA European Parliament group has been crucial in supporting the passing of this resolution.

Spain has authorized the CTA in both Congress and the Senate and is currently pending the deposit of the instrument for ratification. Passed with overwhelming support in both chambers, PGA's letters have helped in generating a sense of urgency and support for this decision.



PGA's first Strategic Roundtable Discussion on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) and the Cape Town Agreement (CTA)



The Sheng Chi Huei 12, a Taiwanese fishing vessel. Photo: Benjamin Lowy/Reportage; The Outlaw Ocean, Ian Urbina, The New York Times

CAMPAIGN FOR DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS (IN DEVELOPMENT)

PGA's Global Parliamentary Campaign for Democratic Renewal and Human Rights is a new campaign approved by the PGA Board in 2018 under PGA's 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.

It will contribute directly to PGA's vision of a "rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world" by supporting the networking mechanism among all parliamentary associations and legislative caucuses working to promote and safeguard multi-party democracy worldwide.

The Campaign's first area of intervention will be promoting norms, regulations and best practices reinforcing and protecting civil and political democratic space.

An active, diverse and vibrant civil society is essential to achieving PGA's vision. However, civil society organizations around the world face increased harassment, censorship, limitations on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and association, as well as restrictions on foreign funding. This area of work will allow Lawmakers to undertake pro-active measures to protect democratic systems and to prevent violations of the fundamental rights of parliamentarians and their constituents.

The campaign will also work toward protecting the human rights of democracy activists, especially parliamentarians in opposition, women in politics, minorities and vulnerable groups. While parliamentarians have a privileged position as elected officials, they may be particularly vulnerable to abuses of power by the Executive. PGA is thus committed to

protecting the fundamental rights of MPs as attacks on opposition MPs may indicate that civil society organizations and other vulnerable groups are at risk.

PGA believes that a strong opposition is essential to safeguarding multi-party democracy and that protecting voices of opposition and the right to criticize therefore strengthens democracy as a whole. PGA's work on this important initiative began in 2018 and will continue to develop in 2019.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA and key partners brought substantive leverage to reinforce genuinely democratic forces within the Parliament to the Maldives and, in turn, society at large, as demonstrated by the results of the 2018 elections in the Maldives.

PGA closely monitored human rights abuses against democracy defenders and threats to the democratic system in the Maldives, where our leading member, Hon. Ahmed Mahloof, MP (spokesperson of the opposition), was on trial for fabricated criminal charges aimed at removing him from Parliament and public life, as recognized by Amnesty International - who declared him a prisoner of conscience in May 2018.

In response to his imprisonment stemming from politically-motivated charges, PGA sent a letter from leading PGA Members to their Heads of State or Government in countries with significant tourism in the Maldives in order to pressure the increasingly repressive Maldivian leadership to uphold higher standards of democracy and human rights. PGA received news at the

end of September 2018 that Presidential elections in the Maldives led to a change of leadership. All criminal charges against Mr. Mahloof were dropped, and he now serves as a Minister in the new Government.

Mr. Mahloof thanked PGA for the letters

and statements issued over the last four years, stressing that our campaigning for human rights, democracy and justice was instrumental to his empowerment as an elected MP and, in the last years, as spokesperson of the parliamentary opposition.



PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND MASS ATROCITIES

As an outcome of PGA's 2017 Milan Forum on Preventing Violent Extremism and Mass Atrocities, PGA's partner, the Montreal Institute of Genocide and Human Rights Studies, drafted a Handbook on Parliamentary Action for the Prevention of Mass Atrocities and Violent Extremism.

The handbook was launched in Ottawa at the Parliament of Canada on May 30, 2018 at a roundtable discussion on the role of parliamentarians as advocates for human rights, equality, justice and atrocity-prevention featuring experts from PGA, the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies and the Canadian All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity.

The goal of the handbook is to empower parliamentarians in their work against mass atrocity crimes and violent extremism. It features the Milan Plan of Action, which was adopted at the 2017 39th Annual Forum of PGA. The Handbook served as basis for presentations at the European Parliament and at the human rights seminar of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The Handbook can be found at: issuu.com/migsinstitute/docs/380461454-preventing-violent-extrem



Mr. Adama Dieng, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, and Ms. Margareta Cederfelt (MP Sweden), PGA President, display the Handbook on Parliamentary Action for the Prevention of Mass Atrocities and Violent Extremism

CAMPAIGN ON THE UNIVERSALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ROME STATUTE SYSTEM OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Human Rights and the Rule of Law cannot be respected if there is impunity for the most serious international crimes, such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression. The goal of the Rome Statute Campaign is to end impunity for these most serious crimes by generating awareness, understanding and political will on the imperative to fight impunity and advancing access to justice for victims through the universal ratification and effective implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Increasing attacks on the integrity of the Rome Statute system throughout 2018 has made PGA's work towards the universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute more significant as it strived to address this backlash.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the beginning of the Campaign, with support from PGA partners and donors, PGA has mobilized MPs who have contributed directly to 77 of the 123 ratifications to the Rome Statute of the ICC and the adoption of domestic legislative packages to implement the Rome Statute in 37 countries (with complementarity provisions in 26 countries and cooperation provisions in 24 countries).

During 2018, the year marking the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute (RS), PGA has made significant efforts to advance the universality of the RS in at least 15 target countries that are Not States Parties to the RS.

PGA achieved significant progress in Malaysia, where the accession process had a dramatic progress through the active engagement of Hon. Kula Segaran, PGA Board Member and Co-Convenor of the RS Campaign, demonstrated by the announcement of the country's imminent accession to the Rome Statute on two events organised by PGA in 2018 - at a PGA meeting hosted by the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the UN on 8 June and at the 10th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the ICC & the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC) on 16 November.

The Campaign made important progress in generating political support for ratification in Guinea-Bissau, especially through a series of high-level bilateral meetings with the Speaker of Parliament, the Prime Minister and the President of the Republic arranged by the new PGA Board Member Dr. Suzi Barbosa, MP, Special Adviser on Foreign Affairs to the Prime Minister.

The Campaign achieved its most tangible results in the area of domestic implementation of the Rome Statute thanks to the adoption of comprehensive laws on cooperation with the ICC in Costa Rica and Dominican Republic, with legislative texts drafted by the PGA expert-staff. The draft laws received praise from the highest authorities of the ICC and its Assembly of States Parties due to fact that the text not only addresses all areas of mandatory cooperation with the Court, but also other forms of cooperation usually secured through special agreements (on protection

of victims and witnesses, enforcement of sentences, and interim and permanent release).

This PGA success was built on the legacy of the Montevideo Seminars organized annually by PGA for the last 6 years and on the achievement of the 2017 law promulgated in Paraguay that fully implements the Rome Statute in the domestic legal order, which resulted from PGA Members' leadership. The same leadership brought about the adoption by the Parliament of Paraguay in December 2018 of the law authorizing the Government to ratify the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression and war crimes.

Newly accrued engagement has been identified in Pacific Islands countries following an Interactive Luncheon Panel Discussion on the "20th Anniversary of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC): Expanding ICC Membership amongst Pacific Island States" organized by PGA at the European Parliament in June 2018.

The luncheon served to promote the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute of the ICC amongst the Pacific Island States through the leadership efforts of parliamentary delegations attending the 35th ACP-EU JPA.

As a direct outcome of the luncheon and the explicit expression of interest, PGA submitted the draft law implementing the RS provisions on complementarity and cooperation as well as incorporating all Amendments to the RS and all four cooperation agreements with the ICC, accompanied by a draft Parliamentary resolution authorizing the ratification of all Amendments to the RS, to the Ambassador of Vanuatu to the EU who has been since then engaging not only with the Executive

and Parliament in Vanuatu, but also in other Pacific Islands countries to promote the draft law.

Further significant progress towards the implementation of the Rome Statute has been made in Chile, Central African Republic and Ukraine. In Chile, the House of Deputies approved a draft resolution on the implementation of the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute on 16 October.

In Central African Republic, PGA organized a Technical Seminar on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the Fight against Impunity in Bangui in October 2018. Parliamentarians in attendance discussed the legislative measures which will be further used to draft a bill proposal to the Government aimed at allowing the Central-African courts to bring justice, alongside the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Special Criminal Court (SCC), to the many victims of international crimes.

Finally, in Ukraine, the draft law "On amending Ukrainian legislation in order to ensure harmonisation of the criminal law with provisions of international law", prepared by civil society organizations with input from PGA, was approved by the Executive and transmitted to Parliament of Ukraine in December 2018. This progress has been an accumulation of more than two years of advocacy and efforts of PGA members and NGOs in Ukraine led by the local partner PGA, the Centre for Civil Liberties (CCL). PGA Ukrainian Members have also called for the transmission to Parliament of the draft law on cooperation with the ICC, currently under consideration by the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs.

In 2018, PGA organised several events to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of

the Rome Statute of the ICC - on 17 and 18 July 2018 by organizing events in New York City and Rome, respectively, as well as a high-level ministerial event at the United Nations. PGA also participated in the 10th Special Session of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the International

Criminal Court (ICC), organized by the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs. Diputado Jorge Cálix, Honduras, delivered a strong speech on behalf of PGA emphasizing the universality of the Rome Statute, particularly in the Americas.



"Let me be clear: Impunity for perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression only serves to increase the likelihood of the commission of new atrocities. We, as Parliamentarians have a duty to play a critical role for the universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute system, as well as for building and strengthening the Rule of Law, and enhancing victims' access to justice, truth and reparations."

- MS. MARGARETA CEDERFELT, MP, SWEDEN, AND PRESIDENT OF PGA

10TH CAP-ICC AND 40TH ANNUAL FORUM

Parliamentarians gathered for the 40th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action, hosted in Kyiv, Ukraine in the plenary hall of the Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine under the leadership of PGA Board Member and Chair of the PGA National Group Hon. Hryhoriy Nemyria, MP (Chair, Human Rights Committee).

The Kyiv Forum, organised on 16-17 November 2018, was devoted to the 10th session of the *Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the ICC and the Rule of Law*, the only high-level global gathering of political leaders focused solely on international justice and the Rule of Law.

Since 2002, its meetings have represented a unique opportunity for Lawmakers from all regions of the world to discuss and define strategies towards reinforcing international and domestic criminal justice and the prevention of the most serious crimes of concern to the International Community, while promoting the rights of victims and of the accused.

Among the 200 participants in attendance, 77 parliamentarians from 38 countries around the world had the opportunity to hear from, and debate with, some of the highest officials from the Rome Statute system, including Mr. O-Gon Kwon, President of

the Assembly of States Parties, Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Vice-President of the ICC, and Mr. Amady Bâ, Head of the International Cooperation Unit at the ICC Office of the Prosecutor (OTP). Members of international organizations, Governmental bodies, civil society, academics and the media were also in attendance.

Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP from Sweden, President of PGA, opened the event by emphasizing the vital role that parliamentarians play for the universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute system.

Members of PGA reaffirmed their commitment to the “never again/nunca mas” principle, meaning there is no tolerance for the impunity of individuals who are responsible for the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression: crimes that shock the essence of humanity.

The two-day international conference enabled the panelists and the audience to exchange critical and constructive viewpoints on the Rome Statute system and debate about the particular situations of alleged commission of international crimes potentially falling under the jurisdiction of the ICC.

The Forum represented a significant momentum to address the interests of justice not only at the international level, but also at the domestic level in Ukraine, given its timely significance: the ratification of the Rome Statute in Ukraine may become achievable following the entry into effect of a relevant Constitutional provision in the second half of the year 2019.

The Forum therefore provided an opportunity to raise the level of attention of relevant stakeholders and participants about the significance and long-term added-value of Ukraine joining the Rome Statute system as well as to accelerate the RS implementation process in the country.

The Consultative Assembly ended with the consideration and adoption of the Kyiv Plan of Action¹, which contains a blueprint for strategies and initiatives that PGA Members and other concerned legislators can undertake, in accordance to the needs of their own country or region, to make a difference in support of the effectiveness and universality of the Rome Statute system against impunity.

¹ www.pgaction.org/pdf/2018-Annual-Forum/Kyiv-Plan-of-Action_en.pdf





23RD ANNUAL PGA DEFENDER OF DEMOCRACY AWARDS

PGA's Defender of Democracy Award (DDA) is presented to individuals who, through their own commitment and active engagement, have made significant progress in strengthening democracy and human rights. The 2018 DDA Awardees are Mr. Ahmed Mahloof, MP (Maldives) and Mr. Oleg Sentsov (Ukraine).

MR. AHMED MAHLOOF

Mr. Ahmed Mahloof, MP from the Maldives, is a democracy and human rights champion who has been arrested and detained over 25 times since 2010 for his action in peaceful protests.

Charges against Mr. Mahloof were dropped in September 2018. PGA made many statements and interventions in support

of the cause of Mr. Mahloof, who was recognized as a "prisoner of conscience" by Amnesty International in May 2018.

MR. OLEG SENTSOV

Oleg Sentsov, a Ukrainian film director, arrested in Crimea and sentenced to 20 years in prison on charges of plotting terrorist acts against Russian 'de facto' rule in Crimea.

Amnesty International described the court process as 'an unfair trial before a military court'. His conviction has become a powerful symbol of approximately 70 Ukrainian citizens illegally-arrested and convicted to long prison sentences by the Russian occupation forces in the Crimean Peninsula after its annexation.



Hon. Ahmed Mahloof, MP Maldives and Mr. Yevgen Chernykov on behalf of DDA recipient Mr. Oleg Sentsov (Ukraine)

**INTERNATIONAL
PEACE & SECURITY**

**2018
ACHIEVEMENTS**

CAMPAIGN FOR UNIVERSALITY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION & IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)

With the evolution of more sophisticated and complex terrorism and conflict-related threats, a renewed interest in ensuring greater universality and implementation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) has emerged in the past decade. Together with Governments, International organizations and other civil society organizations, PGA is promoting the universality and implementation of the BWC in order to prevent the development, manufacture and stockpiling of Biological Weapons, which, together with other Weapons of Mass Destruction, threaten the very existence of civilization and life.

PGA works with relevant partners and institutions to promote full compliance of States with the BWC and relevant legally binding instruments, including UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) as reinforced by UN Security Council Resolution 2325 (2016), which expressly recognizes the pivotal role of parliamentarians in this arena.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA organized a Workshop in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania in September 2018 and another Workshop in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau in October 2018 to promote universality and implementation of the BWC and Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004). The events each concluded with the adoption of, respectively, the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration and the Bissau Plan of Action to facilitate crucial follow up steps by all participants.

In 2018, PGA members in the Central African Republic and Tanzania took decisive steps towards ratification of the BWC. In the Central African Republic, Hon. Béatrice Epaye, MP and Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly, has led efforts since her participation and firm commitment given at the PGA Regional Africa BWC/1540 Workshop in Freetown, Sierra Leone in March 2017.

The Central African Republic ratified the BWC in September 2018 and the Parliament of Tanzania approved ratification in November 2018. It is anticipated that Tanzania will ratify the BWC in the first half of 2019.

Guinea-Bissau submitted its first ever National Report on Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). PGA Executive Committee Member Dr. Suzi Barbosa MP played an important catalytic/contributory role in this matter and PGA is mentioned in this Report. In addition, PGA Membership in the Pacific Islands made important supportive contributions to the accession to the BWC by Niue.

Ongoing efforts to promote ratification and implementation of the BWC and implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004), as applicable, continue in numerous countries worldwide, including Somalia, Chad, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, South Sudan, Comoros, Djibouti, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Micronesia and across the Latin America and Caribbean region.



"As an MP from the Central African Republic and Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I am proud that my country has become a State Party to the Biological Weapons Convention - an indication of the strong commitment of CAR to addressing the threats posed by biological weapons. I also urge the international community to support my country in the implementation of this treaty."

- DEP. BÉATRICE EPAYE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAIR OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



CAMPAIGN TO ADDRESS THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND TO PROMOTE THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

In 2018, PGA continued to work towards making the world a more secure place by contributing to the ratification and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), a multilateral, legally-binding agreement that establishes common standards for the international trade of conventional weapons and seeks to reduce the illicit arms trade.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA Members in all regions worldwide have played, and continue to play, a demonstrably substantial role in promoting universality and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

As of December 2018, PGA Members have made important, measurable contributions to moving the ATT signature process forward in 44 of the 130 UN Member States that have signed the ATT within the prescribed period before it entered into force on 24th December 2014 and similar, important and measurable contributions vis-a-vis 45 of the 100 UN Member States that have ratified the ATT to date.

In 2018, PGA hosted regional Parliamentary workshops on improving compliance with the UN Programme of Action Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Apia, Samoa; Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; and Bissau, Guinea-Bissau. These Workshops enabled participants to share current thinking and positions in their respective countries in connection with the UN Programme of

Action. Additionally, the Workshops in both countries focused in large part on promoting greater and more effective participation by women MPs in Parliamentary Defence, Security and Interior Committees.

PGA members in Brazil, Chile, Guinea-Bissau and Suriname have also played central leadership roles in their respective country's ratification of the ATT during 2018. In Guinea-Bissau, PGA Executive Committee Member Dr. Suzy Barbosa MP led efforts over a two-year period in advocating for and achieving this notable success.

In Mozambique, PGA Executive Committee Member Hon. Antonio Niquice played a central role leading up to parliamentary ratification of the ATT. The Government of Mozambique ratified the ATT, becoming the 100th State Party to the ATT. The Chair of the PGA National Group, Hon. Ana Rita Sithole also engaged in important advocacy efforts with respect to ATT ratification by Mozambique, post parliamentary ratification.



“As a PGA Member, I am very pleased to see such an important step being taken in the Nacional Popular Assembly. In the past 18 months I have been working with PGA and with my colleagues in Parliament in order to promote and secure this Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The approval of the Ratification of the ATT takes place in a crucial time for Guinea-Bissau. It is important that the Executive sees that the Deposit of the Instrument of Ratification takes place as soon as possible.”

- DR. SUZY BARBOSA, MP, GUINEA-BISSAU, AND PGA EXECUTIVE MEMBER



GENDER, EQUALITY & INCLUSION

2018
ACHIEVEMENTS

CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE

Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) is a violation of human rights and a development challenge that prevents approximately 15 million girls, and their countries, from achieving their potential every year.

The practice perpetuates cycles of poverty, undermines efforts to reduce the numbers of women and children dying in childbirth and infancy, and holds back girls from attending school and contributing to their countries' economic development and prosperity.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA members contributed to reforms in Civil and Family Codes in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi and Trinidad and Tobago raising the minimum age of marriage for boys and girls to 18 and

repealing the exceptions that allowed marriage under this age, reaffirming their commitment to ending child marriage.

In June, PGA Member Ms. Kasthuri Patto, MP from Malaysia and PGA, participated in Girls Not Brides' Global Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. During a panel on "Working with parliamentarians to end child marriage," Kasthuri cited the social and economic benefits associated with ending child marriage and advocated for the introduction of sex education to educate youth.

PGA's Global Parliamentary Declaration to End Child Marriage secured commitments from 774 MPs from 80 countries around the world in support of SDG 5, particularly its target 5.3 on ending all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage by 2030.



MS. KASTHURI PATTO, MP (MALAYSIA) & PGA MEMBER

CAMPAIGN AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

As the only global parliamentary network bold enough to take on this issue, PGA has continued to blaze new trails in its Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Campaign, which aims to sensitize parliamentarians on human rights protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) persons on the basis of the principles of equality and non-discrimination and to undertake education and technical assistance designed to increase political will in support of effective application of human rights norms and standards in accordance with international obligations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA members in Bolivia, Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Seychelles, among other countries, have taken policy and legislative actions to increase LGBTI protections and strengthen public narratives about LGBTI people.

In Pakistan, the Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Bill 2018, passed by the National Assembly in May 2018, was introduced and championed by longstanding PGA member Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar, MP, whose participation in PGA meetings contributed to his sensitization and built political will on this topic.

In Chile, PGA contributed to the efforts of local civil society organizations to advocate for a project of gender identity law by facilitating contacts with PGA member-legislators in the Chilean Parliament and providing legislators with technical

assistance. Approved in September, the text enshrines the right of every person to the recognition and protection of their right to gender identity, to be identified in public and private documents with the gender of their choice and to freely develop their personality according to their gender identity.

India's Supreme Court ruled on September 6, 2018 that consensual and private same-sex relations between adults are not a crime. PGA also saluted the decriminalization of same-sex sexual conduct in Trinidad and Tobago on April 12, 2018, as a consequence of a pivotal Supreme Court decision.

PGA also organized several events to sensitize and mobilize parliamentarians on this key issue. Among these are:

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, PGA organized a Seminar for Parliamentarians and National Human Rights Institutions on Equality and Non-Discrimination based on SOGI in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participating MPs adopted the Declaration of Buenos Aires committing themselves to introducing laws and public policies that combat discrimination based on SOGI, among other actions.

At the United Nations, PGA Board members met with representatives of the UN LGBTI Core Group to learn more about the work done within the UN framework to ensure universal respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons and to exchange views on ways to reinforce each other's objectives.

In Kiev, PGA held, in collaboration with Ukrainian LGBT Association LIGA,

a Parliamentary Roundtable on Best Practices and Lessons Learned to Advance Equality and Non-Discrimination based on SOGI in Ukraine. After the Roundtable LGBTI civil society participants agreed on a common Plan of Action with specific proposals in key areas that was shared with the Human Rights Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament and all PGA members in Ukraine.

PGA's LGBTI Inclusion Site (www.pgaction.org/inclusion), which provides user-friendly tools for parliamentarians, including a social media kit and the LGBTI Handbook for Parliamentarians, now available in French, Russian, English, Spanish, Chinese, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese, has been visited more than 38,000 times since its launch in 2017.



"I am proud of my country for this legislative success. The right to self-determine your own gender identity is a fundamental matter of individual freedom and Chile is putting itself at the vanguard of States that recognize this."

- TUCAPEL JIMÉNEZ, MP, CHILE, PGA BOARD MEMBER AND CO-CONVENOR OF PGA'S GENDER, EQUALITY AND POPULATION PROGRAM



PGA Board member Dr. Hryhoriy Nemyria, MP, Chair of the Human Rights Committee in the Ukrainian Parliament and PGA member Ms. Julie Ward, MEP from the United Kingdom, meet with representatives from Ukrainian LGBTI civil society groups.

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Ms. Petra Bayr, MP (Austria) and PGA Treasurer, displays the PGA LGBTI Handbook at the *Parliamentary Roundtable on Best Practices and Lessons Learned to Advance Equality and Non-Discrimination based on SOGI in Ukraine*.





Parliamentarians *for Global Action*
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي

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