



PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

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PARLIAMENTARIANS KEEP THEIR PROMISE: MEXICO POISED TO BECOME 100TH STATE PARTY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

Mexico City, June 21, 2005 – With 78 votes in favour and one against, Mexico completed today the legislative process to become the 100th State Party to the International Criminal Court (ICC), thereby advancing further the cause of international justice. The ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC by the Mexican Senate is a historical event that, as noted by the Vice-President of the Senate and PGA leader in Mexico, **César Jáuregui Robles**, “occurs knowing that justice is today the supreme value that trumps partisan interests or personal positions.”

Sen. César Jáuregui Robles (PAN) declared in his speech in today’s session that this “is not the ratification of just another treaty but the recognition that parliamentarians can and have an important role in the decisions that shape the future”. With this ratification, Mexican parliamentarians have helped the international community to meet the goal of 100 States Parties to the ICC and advanced the ongoing quest for universality of international criminal justice. This ratification is also “an undertaking to protect the integrity of the Rome Statute that shall not be jeopardized by bilateral agreements that weaken the application of law and delay justice.”

The Mexican Executive is now mandated to publish the ratification act and to deposit it with the United Nations Secretariat in New York. However, as Sen. Jáuregui reaffirmed “the role of the parliamentarians does not end here; a long path remains to ratify the Agreement of Privileges and Immunities of the Court and the enactment of legislation that will implement the high standards of the Rome Statute within the national order and which will allow for full cooperation with the Court.” The deposit of the ratification instrument will likely happen in September 2005 at a UN Treaty Event, which may include a special UN ceremony marking 100 States Parties. Other countries may decide to join this ceremony and further increase the number of ICC States Parties.

Sen Silvia Hernández (PRI), former President of PGA, declared in her support speech that the “Rome Statute enriches the international legal framework of human rights whose defense is celebrated today as a task of parliamentarians”. The PRD and PVEM parties have also supported this initiative since its conception as demonstrated by the strong statements of Sen. Leticia Burgos, who declared her commitment to “work towards the harmonization of the whole structure of judicial defense still absent in Mexico” and of Sen. Sara Castellanos, respectively.

The Mexican government signed the Rome Statute in 2000. Since then, the debate on joining the ICC system has been dominated by misconceptions that have challenged and delayed the ratification process. It was not until 2004 that a group of leading parliamentarians visited, under the auspices of PGA, the ICC Headquarters in The Hague leading to a subsequent visit by President Philippe Kirsch to Mexico in November 2004. These two initiatives helped to dispel these aforementioned misconceptions, clarifying that the ICC is complementary to national judicial systems, that it respects the principle of non retroactivity, and that it requires the full cooperation of States to properly fulfill its role.

About PGA

Parliamentarians for Global Action is a network of more than 1300 parliamentarians in 114 countries that, since 1989, has worked in favour of the establishment of a permanent and universal international criminal court. PGA members have contributed to the ratification of 60 States Parties to the Rome Statute, and have been the leaders and authors of Rome Statute’s ratification and implementation bills in more than 30 of the 99 State Parties of the ICC. PGA is member of the steering committee of the Coalition for the ICC (CICC).

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