

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)

Media contacts:

Dr. David Donat Cattin, Director, PGA
Int'l Law and Human Rights Programme
- in Kampala: Tel. 071-570 7697
- in New York: T.1-212-687 7755 (ext 100)
donat@pgaction.org

Hon. Stephen Tashobya, MP,
Chair, PGA Uganda group
Chair, Legal & Parliamentary Affairs
Tel: 077-279 8459
stashoboya@parliament.go.ug

6TH CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THE ICC AND RULE OF LAW CONCLUDES IN KAMPALA, UGANDA

MALAYSIAN MINISTER IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS) ANNOUNCES INTENTION OF MALAYSIA TO BECOME A PARTY TO ROME STATUTE

Kampala/New York (28th May, 2010). From 27-28 May, 2010, the Parliament of Uganda hosted the 6th Session of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law, a biennial event organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) since 2002 to generate and harness transnational parliamentary support and action on the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes through the Rome Statute system.

100 Legislators attended and participated in The Kampala session of the Consultative Assembly, the first held in Africa, representing countries from all regions of the world, including among them, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, South Africa, Namibia, New Zealand, Seychelles, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, Uganda and Uruguay.

During the course of the Consultative Assembly, Legislators interacted extensively with the most senior officials of the ICC, President Sang-Hyun Song and Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, as well as with the President of the Assembly of States Parties, Christian Wenaweser and experts from Governments, civil society and the United Nations. Opened by the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, Mr. Edward Ssekandi and Supreme Court Chief Justice Benjamin Odoki, the session was concluded by an address from the Head of the War Crimes Division in the High Court of Uganda, Justice Akiiki Kiiza.

The proceedings of the Consultative Assembly focused on the primary issues and challenges of the *PGA Campaign for the Effectiveness and Universality of the Rome Statute system*, including (i) universality of the Rome Statute through new ratifications or accessions, (ii) effective national implementing legislation of the Statute to secure cooperation with the Court and among States in the fight against impunity and to apply the principle of complementarity, (iii) maximizing the impact of the ICC system to deter crimes and advance peace and security under the Rule of Law, (iv) better protect the rights of victims into national laws and policies, and (v) the promotion of law reforms on gender justice on the basis of the Rome Statute standards.

Throughout the two days of the Consultative Assembly, Legislators emphasized the need for concrete action in all these areas, and, at its conclusion, adopted a comprehensive action plan (*enclosed*), which also contains specific positions of PGA on the agenda-items of the Kampala Review Conference of the Rome Statute.

Some of the more important achievements of the Consultative Assembly include the following:

- 1) The Minister in The Prime Minister's Office (Law and Parliamentary Affairs) of Malaysia, Mr. Mohamed Nazri, announced that the ICC accession bill will be tabled before the Cabinet of the Government of Malaysia upon his return to Kuala Lumpur.. This announcement was warmly welcomed by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Malaysian Parliament, PGA Member Mr. Kula Segaran, MP as well as by all other participants in the Consultative Assembly.
- 2) The author of the DRC's ICC Implementing Legislation Bill of 2008, Prof. Nyabirungu Mwene Songa, MP, communicated that, following persistent advocacy of the DRC PGA National Group, the ICC Bill has been calendarised for discussion in the plenary of the DRC Lower House between 6 and 15 June 2010.
- 3) A prominent representative of Seychelles' main opposition party, PGA Member Mr. Bernard Georges, MP, highlighted specific action to ensure multi-party consensus on ICC ratification by Seychelles, which appears now to be imminent.
- 4) Ugandan MPs led by PGA Member Mr. Stephen Tashobya, MP Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee, described some of the fundamental features of the ICC Bill adopted by Parliament on 10 March 2010, including the elimination of the death penalty for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- 5) Chadian MPs shared their experience in pursuing justice for past gross human rights abuses and requested the technical assistance of PGA on new ICC-related legislation, especially on reparations for victims.
- 6) Brazilian MP Antonio Carlos Pannunzio announced that a comprehensive legislation implementing the Rome Statute in Brazil's law will soon be adopted by the Chamber of Deputies in Brasilia with multi-partisan support.

For more information regarding the outcomes of the Consultative Assembly, its follow-up initiatives, its participants and the work of the PGA ICC Campaign, please contact:

International Law and Human Rights Programme / PGA ICC Campaign

Dr. David Donat-Cattin (Italy), Director (The Hague) - donat@pgaction.org
Mr. Peter Barcroft (Ireland), Senior Programme Officer (New York) - peter.barcroft@pgaction.org
Ms. Deborah Ruiz Verduzco (Mexico), Senior Programme Officer (The Hague) -
deborah.ruiz@pgaction.org
Ms. Stefanie Kueng (Switzerland), Programme Associate (New York) – Stefanie@pgaction.org

Mr. Eloi Urwodhi Wabiyik (DR Congo), Consultant (Kinshasa) – eloipga@gmail.com

PGA, New York

211 E 43rd St. Suite 1604 - New York, NY 10017, USA Tel. +1.212.687.8855 Fax: +1.212.687.8409

PGA, The Hague

Laan van Meerdervoort 70 - 2517 AN, The Hague, Netherlands - Tel. +31.70.360.44.33 / Fax.
+31.70.364.22.55 /Mob. +31.62.331.8581

Website: www.pgaction.org