PRESS STATEMENT

The Hague/New York, 14 May 2014

PGA MEMBERS PRESENT STRATEGY FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MERCOSUR PARLIAMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Montevideo: On May 12, 2014, the Board of the MERCOSUR Parliament received a delegation of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) integrated by Dip . Felipe Michelini, PGA's Executive Committee member and Convenor of the International Law and Human Rights Program of PGA, and Dip. Berta Sanseverino, President of the National Group of PGA in Uruguay. In a brief but substantive presentation, coordinated by the Secretary of PGA and the CICC, the PGA members invited the MERCOSUR Parliament to develop activities to cooperate with the ICC in pursuit of common goals such as the defense of democracy, peace and human rights. Michelini encouraged the PARLASUR to work in different areas and activities and offered the technical assistance of PGA. Such areas included:

- 1) Adoption of a Reference Cooperation Law that can be taken in consideration by the national parliaments of the Member States of MERCOSUR to adopt laws that will allow the Cooperation between those countries and the ICC.
- 2) Adoption of a resolution recommending the States Parties of MERCOSUR to implement the Rome Statute, cooperate with the Court as well as to sign Ad hoc agreements with the ICC providing (reference to the PARLATINO Resolution regarding the CPI and amendments Kamapala presented by a PGA member Dip. Alfaro Zamora (http://www.parlatino.org/en/component/content/article/435-asamblea-resoluciones-xxix/1947-resolucion-de-la-corte-penal-internacional-y-ratificacion-de-las-enmiendas-de-kampala.html)
- 3) Sign an Agreement for Cooperation and Technical Assistance to the ICC in the fight against impunity.

The Chair of the PARLASUR, PGA member Ruben Martinez Huelmo (Uruguay) thanked the presentation and ventured a mutual cooperation between the two organizations.

About PGA

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is the largest transnational network of Members of Parliaments from all regions of the world who, in their individual capacity, support the effective operation of the ICC and domestic jurisdictions to end impunity.

Members of PGA have contributed to 76 of the 122 ratifications of, or accession to the Rome Statute to date. PGA is a member of the Steering Committee of the Coalition for the ICC. The PGA Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of the Rome Statute system receives support from the European Commission,

European Union and the Governments of The Netherlands, Switzerland, and Estonia, as well as from Humanity United. In addition PGA benefits form the core funding form SIDA, DANIDA and Liechtenstein.

The PGA Complementarity Project in DRC, Uganda and Kenya is supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

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