



PARLIAMENTARY WORKSHOP FOR THE RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STATUTE AND THE KAMPALA AMENDMENTS

Senate, Dominican Republic, 10-11 March 2015

We, the Members of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) participating in the Parliamentary Workshop for the Ratification and Implementation of the Rome Statute and the Kampala Amendments, following the deliberations held in the Dominican Senate in Santo Domingo, on 10 and 11 March 2015:

Express sincere appreciation to the Senate of the Dominican Republic for the successful organization of this Parliamentary Workshop;

Recall that Parliamentarians for Global Action is an action-driven and results-oriented group of over 1100 Parliamentarians from 142 countries representing all regions of the world;

Remembering the importance for the international community to benefit from the existence and operation of a permanent, independent and effective Court to punish, thus prevent the most serious crimes under international law, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression;

Observing also the vital deterrent effect, real and potential, that the International Criminal Court has, by virtue of its jurisdiction and very existence, on the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;

Recognising that victims have the right to access to justice, know the truth and have it publicly acknowledged, participate in proceedings, obtain appropriate reparations, be treated with dignity and respect, and receive guarantees from relevant authorities and parties of non-repetition of these atrocities;

Recognizing also that, the international community continues to be confronted with grave human rights abuses and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in different regions of the world, as well as with the breakdown and failure of the Rule of Law within several national frameworks;

Accepting that continuing inertia, inaction or delayed response by the international community and certain national governments in seeking to address this tragic reality is inexcusable and, in addition, is a serious indictment of humanity itself;

Observing that impunity for perpetrators of atrocities only serves to increase the likelihood of the commission of new, equally horrific crimes and may indeed lead to the re-escalation of violence resulting in the recurrence of internal or international armed conflicts and that implementation of customary law is needed to address this issue;

Welcoming the work conducted by the International Criminal Court in its first twelve years protecting, in particular, African victims of the most serious international crimes, and reminding the necessity of expanding this protection to victims in other regions of the world;

Acknowledging the vital role that can be played by us, Parliamentarians, in different ways, to increase the universality and effectiveness of the ICC, to seek to solidify and consolidate the cause of international justice and the establishment, or re-establishment, as the case may be, of the Rule of Law;

Agree to use our legislative and political prerogatives to advance the following objectives:

Antigua and Barbuda

- Implementation of the crimes and principles of the Rome Statute into the National criminal Code or by an implementing legislation
- Introduction of internal mechanisms to cooperate with the ICC
- Request the government to send the bill for ratification of the Kampala Amendments to parliament
- Request the government to promote Rome Statute ratification and implementation in their multilateral relations with different countries especially with countries of the Caribbean Region

Costa Rica

- Amend the Criminal Code to achieve full implementation of the Rome Statute in the domestic legislation regarding principles of international law and crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC, including the Crime of Aggression
- Promote the cooperation bill already introduced in the previous legislature and amend it to include new elements and best practice regarding States cooperation with the ICC
- Request the government to promote the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute as well as political support for the International Criminal Court in all multilateral negotiations, especially with countries in Latin America

República Dominicana

- Promote a bill which include internal mechanisms to effectively cooperate with the International Criminal Court
- Request that the government to send the Kampala Amendments to Congress for ratification
- Request the government to promote the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute as well as political support for the International Criminal Court in all multilateral negotiations, especially with countries in Latin America

Honduras

- Amend the Criminal Code to achieve full implementation of the Rome Statute in the domestic legislation regarding principles of international law and crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC, including the Crime of Aggression

- Promote a bill which include internal mechanisms to effectively cooperate with the International Criminal Court
- Request the government to promote the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute as well as political support for the International Criminal Court in all multilateral negotiations, especially with countries in Latin America

Jamaica

- Implement the Rome Statute as a prerequisite for the ratification of this legal instrument before the end of 2015

Trinidad and Tobago

- Request the government to promote Rome Statute ratification and implementation in their multilateral relations with different countries especially with countries of the Caribbean Region
- Promote parliamentary missions together with PGA to countries in the region to promote the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute
- Request the government to sign Ad Hoc Agreements with the International Criminal Court