



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

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**Seven Countries to Participate in Regional Asia Parliamentary Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons**

**24-25 August 2015**

**Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Dhaka/New York, 20th August, 2015 – Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), in cooperation with ChangeMaker: Society for Social and Economic Development in Dhaka, will be hosting a Regional Asia Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Improved Regulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Mitigation of Armed Violence, at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 24-25 August, 2015. Members of Parliament from across the region, as well as representatives from the Security/Defense Sector and civil society in Bangladesh will attend the Workshop. A representative from the United Nations Regional Office for Peace and Disarmament (UNRCPD), based in Bangkok, will also participate.

By way of background, it has been well established that the widespread misuse of small arms and light weapons has resulted in a wide range of negative human, humanitarian and socio-economic consequences including loss of life, significant injuries and also contributed to the commission of conflict-related crimes such as war crimes, crimes against humanity and rape. Unchecked, inadequate regulation of SALW continues to pose a serious threat to peace, security, stability and sustainable development in many parts of the world, including Asia. The international community has adopted a number of Instruments to address this serious international challenge, ranging from treaties to political instruments. They include the UN Firearms Protocol, the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, the International Tracing Instrument and, most recently, the Arms Trade Treaty.

The purpose of this Workshop is to raise awareness among participants on the most important aspects of these instruments as well as to provide additional information on parliamentary prerogatives available to Members of Parliament to assist in promoting compliance with these multilateral arrangements/agreements in their respective countries. The Workshop is being supported by the Foreign Ministry of the Government of Finland.

**About PGA**

*Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is an international network of over 1,200 legislators in 142 Parliaments around the world advocating for human rights and the rule of law, democracy, human security, non-discrimination and gender equality. PGA's Peace and Democracy Program focuses in marshalling global parliamentary support for improved regulation of the international arms trade, in particular where its adequacies play a demonstrated role in destabilizing countries, causing or fueling conflict and/or delay the emergence of countries from conflict.*

**About ChangeMaker**

*ChangeMaker, a Bangladeshi humanitarian social development organization, is working to reduce vulnerability and marginalization and responds to the need of the poor through cutting-edge sustainable strategies. ChangeMaker places special focus on peace and security because, the preconditions for any development is an enabling environment that respects human rights and the rule of law. ChangeMaker believes that together with the state, the civil society and the private sector and the community at large should work jointly to ensure peace and reduce conflict. ChangeMaker works with the national and international networks, institutions and policy makers to ensure a sustainable peace and security for all.*

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