



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

PGA's Press Release - For Immediate Release

International Law and Human Rights Programme Contacts:

New York
Ms. Leyla Nikjou
Senior Programme Officer
Email: leyla.nikjou@pgaction.org
Cell Ukraine +380.95.419.6021 (only until December 17)
Tel: +1-212-687-7755

***INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF PARLIAMENTARIANS SUPPORT UKRAINIAN
MPS IN THEIR ENDEAVOURS TOWARDS RATIFYING ROME STATUTE OF
ICC***

Kiev/New York/The Hague, 15 December 2015: Hosted by the President of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, The Honorable Volodymyr Groysman, and co-organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), in cooperation with the Committees on Legal Policy and Justice, European Integration and Foreign Affairs Conference, **a Parliamentary Seminar is taking place in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on December 15 from 14:00 to 17:00.** This high-level Peer Exchange Seminar shall provide participants with the opportunity to discuss the way forward for Ukraine's Rome Statute ratification with MPs from Austria, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, as well as with high-level representatives and experts from Estonia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the EU, the OSCE, ICC, the judiciary, academia, and civil society, with the purpose to identify, address, and overcome existing fears and potential obstacles towards ratification and effective implementation of the Rome Statute.

STATEMENTS BY PARTICIPATING PGA MEMBERS:

Statement by PGA Board Member Ms. Petra Bayr, MP Austria: *"Due to the current struggles in Ukraine, the prompt and full ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC by Ukraine is important for the protection of the Ukrainian people and will have a strong deterrent effect for future commission of crimes by Russia. Strengthening the Rule of Law through the Rome Statute can help to build the necessary preconditions for solid and durable peace and is key to ending impunity for most serious crimes under international law. The time to ratify is now and we are ready to support the Ukrainian people if wished so".*

Statement by PGA Treasurer Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP Sweden: *"The President of Ukraine has submitted the Draft Law on Amending the Constitution (on Judiciary) on 25th November 2015.*



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

We were informed that the Committee on Legal Policy and Justice had rejected Draft law 1788 on December 10th unfortunately. The constitutional amendments are a pre-requisite for Ukraine to fully join the ICC and it is disappointing that this process is being delayed. We are here to learn more about the existing obstacles and willing to assist in overcoming them if wished so."

Statement by PGA Board Member Honorable Mark Pritchard, MP United Kingdom: *"It is clear that ratifying and implementing the Rome Statute would be a beneficial and welcome step in establishing a fair and just criminal justice system for Ukraine. There is more to be done in order to realize this goal, and I hope that the Seminar to be held in the Verkhovna Rada on December 15 under the patronage of the Honorable Speaker of Parliament, provides the proper platform for us to come together in the struggle for a more equitable, safe and democratic world, which is PGA's vision and goal"*

PGA has been working with Ukrainian MPs since February 2003 within the framework of the Parliamentary Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of the Rome Statute of the ICC System, through which PGA Members in all regions of the world contributed to the ratification of 76 out of the 123 States that joined the ICC. With great interest, PGA has followed the political transformation of Ukraine over the past months, fostering a more fertile ground for international cooperation on the protection of fundamental human rights. However, Ukraine has not yet fully implemented the Rome Statute and has no procedures to cooperate with the ICC on eventual investigations or prosecutions at the international level, including enforcing warrants against ICC fugitives.

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. The PGA network is assisted by a small secretariat that facilitates the cooperation and exchange by member MPs to achieve these goals and provides technical cooperation on legal advice and advocacy.

THE PGA ICC CAMPAIGN RECEIVES THE SUPPORT OF

THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS
THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

THE GOVERNMENTS OF
SWITZERLAND
LIECHTENSTEIN
ESTONIA

AND





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

THIS EVENT WAS ORGANIZED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA



AND THE RAZUMKOV CENTER

*BETWEEN 2001 AND MID-2015, THE PGA ICC CAMPAIGN RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF THE EU
UNDER THE EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
THE EUROPEAN UNION*

EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS



On-line access to PGA ICC Campaign:

<http://www.pgaction.org/programmes/ilhr/overview.html> - <https://www.facebook.com/pgaction>
<http://twitter.com/#!/PGAction> -