

P&D UPDATE



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

**PEACE & DEMOCRACY
PROGRAMME UPDATE
MAY - SEPTEMBER 2016**



**PGA Global Parliamentary Campaign to Promote Universality
and Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**



**PGA Global Parliamentary Campaign to Promote Universality
and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)**

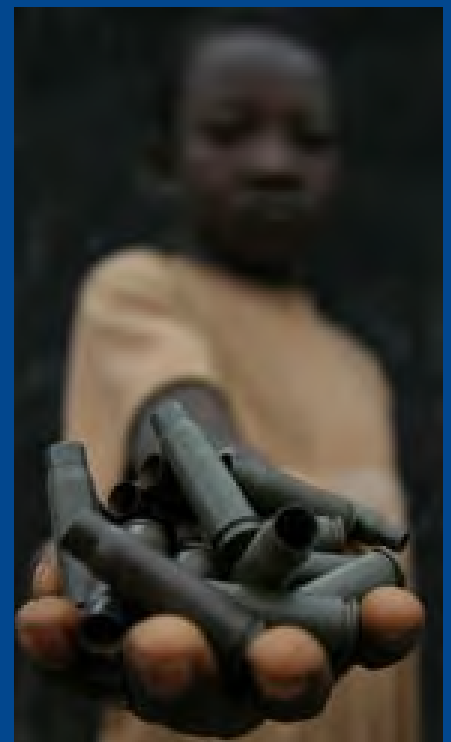
PGA's vision is to contribute to the creation of a Rules-Based International Order
for a more equitable, safe and democratic world.



PGA GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSALITY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

As of September 2016, PGA Member Parliamentarians have made substantive, measurable contributions in 37 of the 89 UN Member States that have ratified the ATT to date.

PGA's global network of Member Parliamentarians have also assisted in the domestic implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and updating of domestic firearms legislation in several countries.



DESCRIPTION

Multiple initiatives have been, and continue to be, undertaken, including:

- Direct outreach to Foreign Ministries
- Formal written correspondence with Foreign Ministries
- Direct telephone contact with Foreign Ministries/ATT Delegations
- Media interviews via widely read national publications
- In-Country Briefing Paper Preparations
- Questions asked in Parliament
- Notices/Orders/Motions submitted in Parliament
- Discussion with Speakers of Parliament



ACTIONS

[PGA Regional Lusophone Workshop Promoting Ratification and Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty](#)

Praia, Cape Verde, 18-19 July, 2016

National Assembly of Cabo Verde

Supported by the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR), PGA organized a *Lusophone States Workshop to Promote Ratification and Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty*, in close cooperation with, and kindly hosted by, the National Assembly of Cape Verde in Praia from 18-19 July, 2016.



The Workshop brought together over 40 prominent Legislators & Government officials from Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe for a two day period to discuss and review the Arms Trade Treaty, in particular its significance in the context of the Lusophone community (many members of which are more vulnerable island/multiple island states and/or possess long coastal areas that are difficult to police) with a view to identifying a range of practical steps and initiatives that could be taken to promote ratification and implementation of the ATT in their respective countries.

Also participating was the Minister of Internal Affairs of Cape Verde, the Vice-President of the National Assembly of Cabo Verde, the Head of Delegation of the European Union to Cabo Verde, the Judicial Advisor to the Secretary General of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), the UN Resident Coordinator in Cape Verde, a Representative from the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) and the Ambassador of Brazil to Cabo Verde.

PGA was particularly pleased to ensure the extensive participation, including in the majority of panel presentations as well as interactive dialogue sessions, of a large number of representatives from 5 different civil society groups in Cape Verde, drawn primarily

from those organizations engaged in addressing/combating gender based violence in Cabo Verde.

A lively panel discussion dedicated to the gender component of the ATT took place in the morning of the second day of this Workshop.

The Judicial Advisor to the Secretary General of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) undertook to continue to facilitate PGA's already growing development of contacts with senior government officials and parliamentarians in Timor Leste, and encouraged PGA to make a Field Mission visit to Timor Leste in the near future to share the outcome document of this Workshop with the Government and National Assembly of Timor Leste and hold meetings with relevant stakeholders to raise awareness on the importance of the ATT accession.

At the conclusion of the Workshop, an ambitious [Plan of Action](#) was adopted to facilitate all crucial, follow up actions by all participants under this project.

Individual National Road Maps are also being elaborated in consultation with each country Participant.



Representatives from: Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Brazil and Mozambique



PGA Director of Peace & Democracy Programme, Mr. Peter Barcroft met in Praia with Minister for Internal Affairs of Cape Verde, Sr. Paulo Rocha, to discuss the ratification process of the Arms Trade Treaty.



A PGA Delegation together with a Representative from the CPLP was also kindly received by the Speaker of the National Assembly, H.E. Jorge Santos in his offices in the National Assembly. The Speaker of the National Assembly of Cabo Verde undertook to seek to expedite the deposit of Instrument of Ratification of the ATT of Cabo Verde.



On 23rd September, 2016, the Government of Cabo Verde deposited its Instrument of Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, becoming the 89th State Party to the ATT.





ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

A. Universality of ATT (Ratification/Accession)

Dr. Margarida Izata, Director of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Angola has informed PGA at the Lusophone Seminar in Cape Verde that the parliament in Angola has created a commission to ensure that the national legislation is in conformity with the Arms Trade Treaty. The Parliament in Luanda has adopted a resolution to approve the treaty.

1.

ANGOLA

Africa



2.

CABO VERDE

Africa



On 23rd September, 2016, the Government of Cabo Verde deposited its Instrument of Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, becoming the 89th State Party to the ATT. With the kind support of UNSCAR, PGA organized a [Lusophone States Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Ratification and Implementation of the ATT in Cabo Verde from 18-19 July, 2016](#). PGA Member Dep. José Manuel Sanches played a central role in organizing this Workshop and promoting Ratification of the ATT by Cabo Verde.

3.

CAMEROON

Africa



PGA member, Hon. Peter William Mandio paid a courtesy visit on May 26, 2016 to the Minister Delegate to the Minister of External Relations in charge of Relations with the Commonwealth, Dr. Joseph Dion Ngute. Discussions during the audience centered on, *inter alia*, the [ratification by Cameroon](#) of the Arms Trade Treaty. In August 2016, PGA transmitted a detailed legal analysis of the ATT addressing a particular reported concern of the Government of Cameroon, as shared with PGA by Hon. Mandio.

PGA was pleased to have been informed by Dr. Arsénio Moro Malongo, Councillor to the Ambassador of Guinea Equatorial to the Community of Portuguese Language Speaking Countries (CPLP), that on account of the importance attached to the ATT by the CPLP and the challenges his country faced in this area, he would encourage his Government to review moving forward with accession to the ATT in the near future.

4.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Africa



5.

GUATEMALA

Latin America / Caribbean



On 12th July 2016, Guatemala ratified the Arms Trade Treaty. Former PGA Member and MP, Mr. Edgar Ernesto Herrera [was an active advocate for both the signature and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty by Guatemala.](#)

In early May 2016, PGA's Peace & Democracy Team was pleased to have been informed by PGA Member Hon. Dr. Suzi Carla Barbosa, Vice-President of the PAIGC, and former Secretary of State, Ministry for International Cooperation of Guinea Bissau that PGA Member Hon. Mario Fambe MP, Special Commission of Defense of the National Assembly of Guinea Bissau, is now mobilizing support for ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty within the National Assembly. On July 27th, 2016, further to their participation at the Lusophone Seminar in Cape Verde, the

delegation of Guinea Bissau led by Dr. Suzy Barbosa, Vice-President of the PAIGC, and former Secretary of State for International Cooperation and Communities, signaled that the ratification process of the ATT in Guinea Bissau is likely to move forward once the parliament is re-convened, which is anticipated to take place in late 2016. Hon. Dr. Barbosa subsequently informed PGA on 20 September, 2016 that she was following up with relevant authorities once again to establish the status quo and encourage action.

6.

Guinea Bissau

Africa



7.

KENYA

Africa

PGA Member Senator Mutula Kilonzo Junior informed PGA in writing on 16th September, 2016 that the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Kenya had written to him on 5th September

2016, indicating that, as required by the Constitution of Kenya, consultations among stakeholders are currently underway to first, establish a common position among



Government Agencies regarding the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and secondly, to ensure that the decision that the Government makes with regard to the ATT takes Kenya's best interests into account. The deliberations in question are led by the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice as well as the Office of the Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service. It is the outcome

of these deliberations that will inform the direction that the Government of Kenya will take i.e. whether or not to propose to Cabinet and subsequently Parliament, to approve Kenya's accession to the ATT.

8.

MOZAMBIQUE

Africa



On July 19, 2016, Dep. Edmundo Galiza Matos, Head of the Delegation of Mozambique to PGA's Lusophone Workshop in Cape Verde informed PGA that on March 29, 2016, the Council of Ministers in Maputo have issued a resolution [approving the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty](#). The process is now in the hands of the National Assembly, and Dep. Galiza predicts that plenary shall vote and approve the ratification of the ATT before the end of the year.

Dep. José Macumbo Costa Alegre has informed PGA, ahead of his participation at the Lusophone Seminar in Cabo Verde, that the parliament in São Tomé has unanimously approved the ratification of the [Kinshasa Convention](#) and that the President has issued a resolution approving the ratification of the Convention. This ratification of the Kinshasa Convention demonstrates the existence of important political will to address similar challenges, as set out at the international level in the Arms Trade Treaty.

9.

São Tomé & Príncipe

Africa



PGA is currently engaging with prominent PGA Parliamentary Members and Government Officials in seeking to move forward this ratification process.

In early May of 2016, the P&D Team was pleased to have been informed by PGA Member Hon. Tharchen MP (Bhutan) that the text of a parliamentary question relating to the Arms Trade Treaty had been endorsed by the House and would be raised with the Foreign Minister in the Parliamentary Session on May 26, 2016. In response to that letter, on July 6th, 2016, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan sets out its position in connection with prospects for accession by Bhutan to the Arms Trade Treaty in an [extensive response](#) to a letter requesting further information from PGA Member of the National Council of Bhutan. Hon. Tharchen.

10.

BHUTAN

Asia



11.

CAMBODIA

Asia



PGA was informed by PGA Member Hon. Son Chhay MP on 19th August, 2016 that, having already written previously to the Defense Minister of Cambodia, he is now following up directly with the Prime Minister to encourage ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and inquire as to the status of the process leading to ratification of the ATT by Cambodia.

A PGA Delegation was pleased to meet on 23rd September, 2016 with the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Nepal and PGA Member, H.E. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat MP. Minister Mahat indicated that there was no objection to Nepal acceding to the Arms Trade Treaty and that he would make it a political priority upon his return to Kathmandu after attending the High Level Segment of the 71st UN General Assembly in New York.

12.

NEPAL

Asia



13.

PAKISTAN

Asia



PGA was pleased to have been informed on 9 August 2016 by Deputy Convenor of PGA Peace & Democracy Programme and former Defense Minister of Pakistan, Hon. Naveed Qamar [that a meeting of the Standing Committee for Defense Production was held on the subject of Arms Trade Treaty.](#) The Department of Defense Production is responsible for production, imports, exports and regulation of arms in Pakistan. The meeting was called at the behest of Syed Naveed Qamar, parliamentary leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in the National Assembly, Deputy Convenor of the PGA Peace and Democracy program and PGA Executive Committee Member.

The Ministry gave a detailed presentation on the process of the production and flow of arms in the country. They stated that Pakistan adheres to all the conditions stipulated in the ATT and participates in all the forums set up to monitor and discuss the Oversight in the program. The Minister for Defense Production declared categorically that the department is not opposed to Pakistan joining the arms trade treaty. It was decided to hold a follow up meeting by calling the officials of both the ministry of DP and Foreign Affairs to drive home the point for Pakistan joining the treaty. It was noted that the Ministry of Interior has already tightened the regulation of arms within the country this meeting is a milestone towards the country's accession to the treaty.

On August 8, 2016, PGA was pleased to be informed by former PGA member, Ashley Acedillo that he has approached Senator Cayetano and the Secretary of National Defense to encourage new President of Philippines to refer ATT to Senate for concurrence and subsequent ratification.

14.

PHILIPPINES

Asia



15.

BOLIVIA

Latin America / Caribbean



PGA's Peace & Democracy Program shared with PGA Member Senator María Lourdes Landivar on 7th May, 2016 a detailed legal analysis and rebuttal of the 6 reasons transmitted to her in writing by/from the Foreign Ministry of Bolivia as to why the Government of Bolivia is not willing at this time to accede to the Arms Trade Treaty.

At its aforementioned Lusophone States ATT Workshop in Praia, Cabo Verde, PGA Member Dep. Aluisio Mendes undertook to personally lead the next steps to move

forward more expeditiously the ATT ratification process in Brazil, including in seeking a meeting with either President, H.E. Michel Temer and/or the Foreign Minister of Brazil, H.E. José Serra. Upon assuming the office as the new Foreign Minister of Brazil in May 2016, H.E. José Serra [specifically alluded to the serious problem of trafficking of arms and organized crimes as between neighboring countries](#) ("...quisiera citar una que hay que cumplir, en colaboración con los Ministerios de Justicia, Defensa y Finanzas, en lo que respecta la "Receita Federal": la protección de las fronteras, hoy en día el lugar

16.

BRAZIL

Latin America / Caribbean



de desarrollo del crimen organizado en Brasil, tenemos esto claro, que se alimenta del contrabando de armas, del contrabando de mercancías, que es monumental, y del tráfico de drogas. En particular, vamos a tratar de movilizar la cooperación de los países vecinos para la acción conjunta contra estas prácticas criminales

que traen tanto daño a nuestra gente y a la nuestra economía....”) The ratification process in Brazil is overdue and as indicated by Dep. Mendes, the Senate would not oppose the ratification. Therefore it is a matter of being approved in the committees and voted at the plenary of the National Assembly. Dep. Mendes reported that he is convinced that the ratification may happen before the end of 2016. As a result, on August 30th, 2016, and further to his participation at the PGA Lusophone Workshop in Cape Verde, Dep. Aluisio Mendes has informed PGA that the text of Arms Trade Treaty has been [approved](#) by the Committee of Constitution and Justice and that now the text goes for the review by the Committee of Public Safety and Combat to Organized Crime, of which he is a member. Once it is approved by this Committee, the ATT will be voted on in the plenary of the National Assembly, expected to take place in late 2016/early 2017.

PGA was pleased to learn on 16th August, 2016 the Arms Trade Treaty was transmitted from the Chamber of Deputies to the [Senate of Chile's Committees on Foreign Relations](#) and Budget Finance for second constitutional review process, having been [approved](#) in the Chamber of Deputies.

17.

CHILE

Latin America / Caribbean



PGA member, Sen. Jimmy Chamorro Cruz confirmed to PGA that on [April 5th, 2016 the Senate of Colombia in Plenary Session during its 4th Debate](#) approved ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty. [On May 20th, 2016 the Congress of Colombia approved adoption of law on Arms Trade Treaty.](#) PGA continues to follow up to encourage deposit of Instrument of Ratification of ATT by Colombia in the near future.

18.

COLOMBIA

Latin America / Caribbean



19.

HAITI

Latin America / Caribbean



On May 17th, 2016 PGA was informed in writing by the Acting President of Haiti, His Excellency Mr. Jocelerme Privert that he would seek to submit the Arms Trade Treaty to the Parliament for consideration for ratification during the resumption of the second parliamentary session of the year. PGA continues to monitor the process in conjunction with its membership in Port-au-Prince.

20.

URUGUAY

Latin America / Caribbean



PGA's Peace & Democracy Program was pleased to have been notified in May 2016 by PGA Executive Committee Member Dip. Bertha Sanseverino that she [has been informed by the Foreign Minister of Uruguay](#), H.E. Rodolfo Nin Novoa that his Ministry will, pursuant to Article 13 of the Arms Trade Treaty, submit its national report on implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty within the first half of 2016.

PGA was pleased to be informed in writing on August 29th, 2016 by PGA Member Hon. Netani Rika, MP, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security Committee that he has met with Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.E. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola on Friday 26th August, 2016 who undertook to give him a further briefing on ATT ratification status in due course. In addition,

PGA Peace & Democracy Programme Co Convenor Hon. Su'a William Sio MP from New Zealand [encourages](#) Fiji to ratify Arms Trade Treaty and Implement Biological Weapons Convention.

21.

FIJI

Pacific Islands



On 23rd September, 2016, PGA Member Hon. Lord Fusitu`a MP of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga visited PGA's Headquarters in New York and pledged to encourage all relevant authorities to proceed with accession to the Arms Trade Treaty by Tonga, upon his return to Nuku'alofa. PGA organized a [Regional Pacific Islands Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Ratification and Implementation of the ATT in Tonga in May 2015](#), kindly supported by the UN Trust Fund Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).

22.

TONGA

Pacific Islands



23.

CANADA

North America



[Statement by PGA Member H el ene Laverdi re MP](#) in August on Decision of Government of Canada to move forward with process of Accession to Arms Trade Treaty. Hon. H el ene Laverdi re MP subsequently also [took an important initiative at the end of September 2016](#) by introduce a Motion in the Parliament of Canada to set up a Parliamentary Committee specifically to scrutinize proposed arms exports.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

B. Implementation of ATT and Other Complementary Initiatives

PGA Acting President Dip. Margarita Stolbizer in September 2016 [promoted new legislation](#) curtailing capacity of public/civil servants of Argentina to hold overseas investments, some evidence regarding which allegedly indicates that some such holdings may be used, inter alia, for illegal arms trafficking. Dip. Stolbizer has also been in contact with the Foreign Ministry of Argentina earlier in 2016, promoting timely compliance with reporting requirements under Article 13 of the ATT.

1.

ARGENTINA

Latin America/ Caribbean



2.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Latin America/ Caribbean



A [Bill of Legislation on Firearms](#) authored by PGA Executive Committee Member and Deputy Convenor of Peace & Democracy Programme, Dip. Víctor Bisonó was enacted into law in August, 2016, and which also - for the first time - addressed and penalized manufacture and usage of Biological, Chemical and Nuclear WMDs. In September 2016, Dip. Víctor Bisonó [set out aspects of new domestic legislation](#) in a regional workshop.

Further to hosting [PGA's 37th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians in San Salvador in November/December 2015](#) on the Role of Parliamentarians in Promoting Peace & Security, President Salvador Sánchez Cerén called for improved arms control and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty at the [Meeting of Non-Aligned States in Venezuela in September 2016](#).

3.

EL SALVADOR

Latin America/ Caribbean



4.

PORTUGAL

Europe



In early July, 2016, during the Lusophone Workshop in Cape Verde, PGA member, Dep. Pedro Filipe Soares, Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Portugal, kindly agreed to share with PGA all relevant ATT implementing legislation that Portugal has in place so that PGA could then, in turn, share with all participants, further to their participation in the Lusophone States Workshop.

PGA Member Hon. Carlo Sommaruga MP [spoke out](#) in August 2016 on the need for Switzerland to move away from arms production.

5.

SWITZERLAND

Europe



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

C. Other complementary initiatives taken by PGA members on Arms Export controls

1.

UNITED STATES

North America



PGA Members Rep. Jim McGovern, Rep. Jim McDermott, Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Earl Blumenauer and Rep. Jan Schakowsky were among 64 Members of US Congress to write a [letter to President Obama](#) on August 29th, 2016, urging Postponement of Plan to Supply Arms to Saudi Arabia and Withdrawal of Notification.

Also, PGA Member, Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass) [decried the sale of arms by the United States of America to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.](#)




PGA Daily SALW/ATT Update


The screenshot shows the website for Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA). The browser address bar displays www.pgaction.org/news/issues-in-the-media/salw-att/. The website header includes the PGA logo and the organization's name in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic. A navigation menu contains links for HOME, ABOUT US, PROGRAMMES, CAMPAIGNS, and NEWS AND ACTIVITY CENTER. The main content area is titled "SALW / ATT issues in the media" and features six article thumbnails. Each thumbnail consists of a representative image and a caption indicating the month and year of the media coverage.


Parliamentarians for Global Action
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HOME ABOUT US PROGRAMMES CAMPAIGNS NEWS AND ACTIVITY CENTER


SALW / ATT issues in the media


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SALW/ATT Issues in the Media - October 2016
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SALW/ATT Issues in the Media - September 2016
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SALW/ATT Issues in the Media - August 2016
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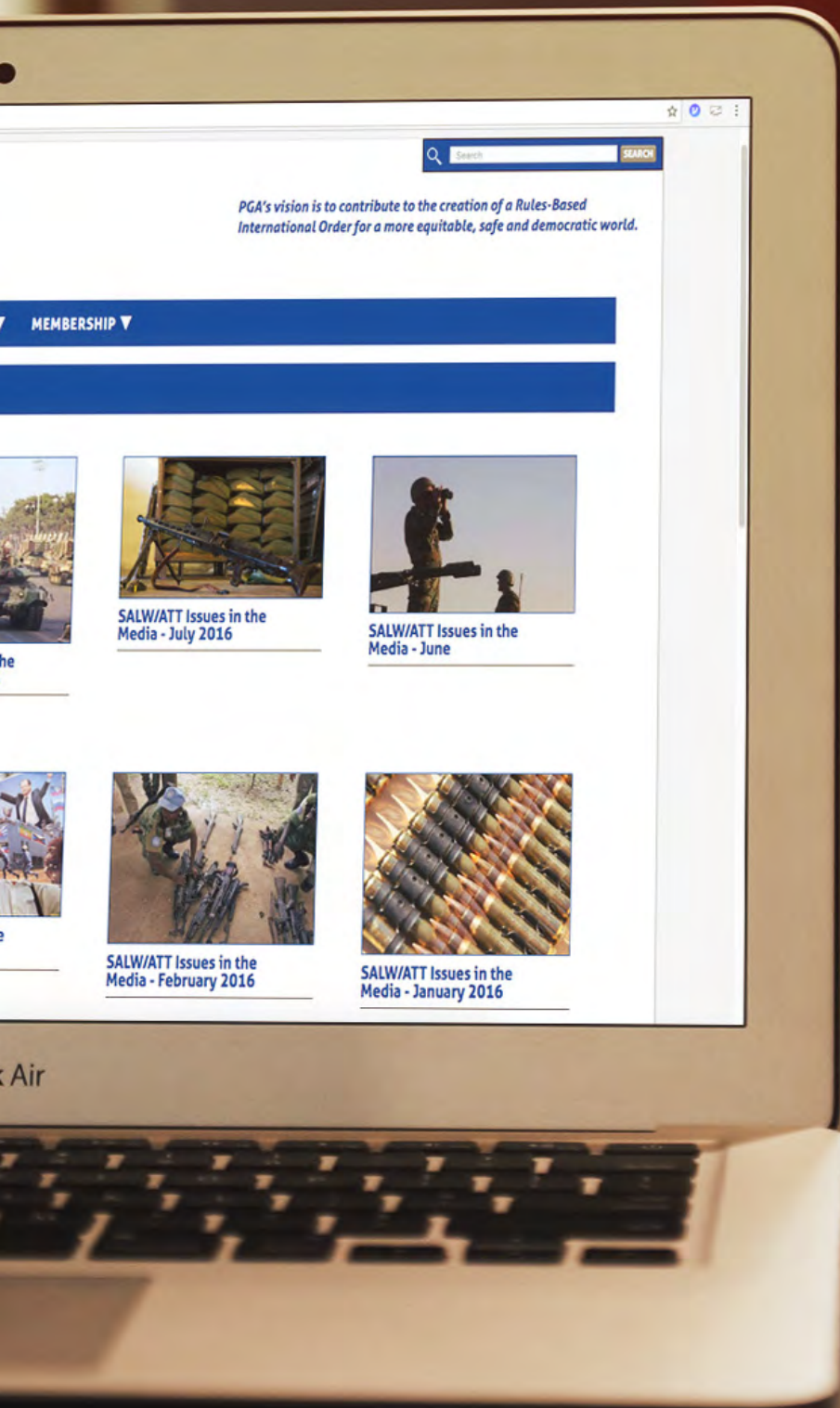
SALW/ATT Issues in the Media - May
- 

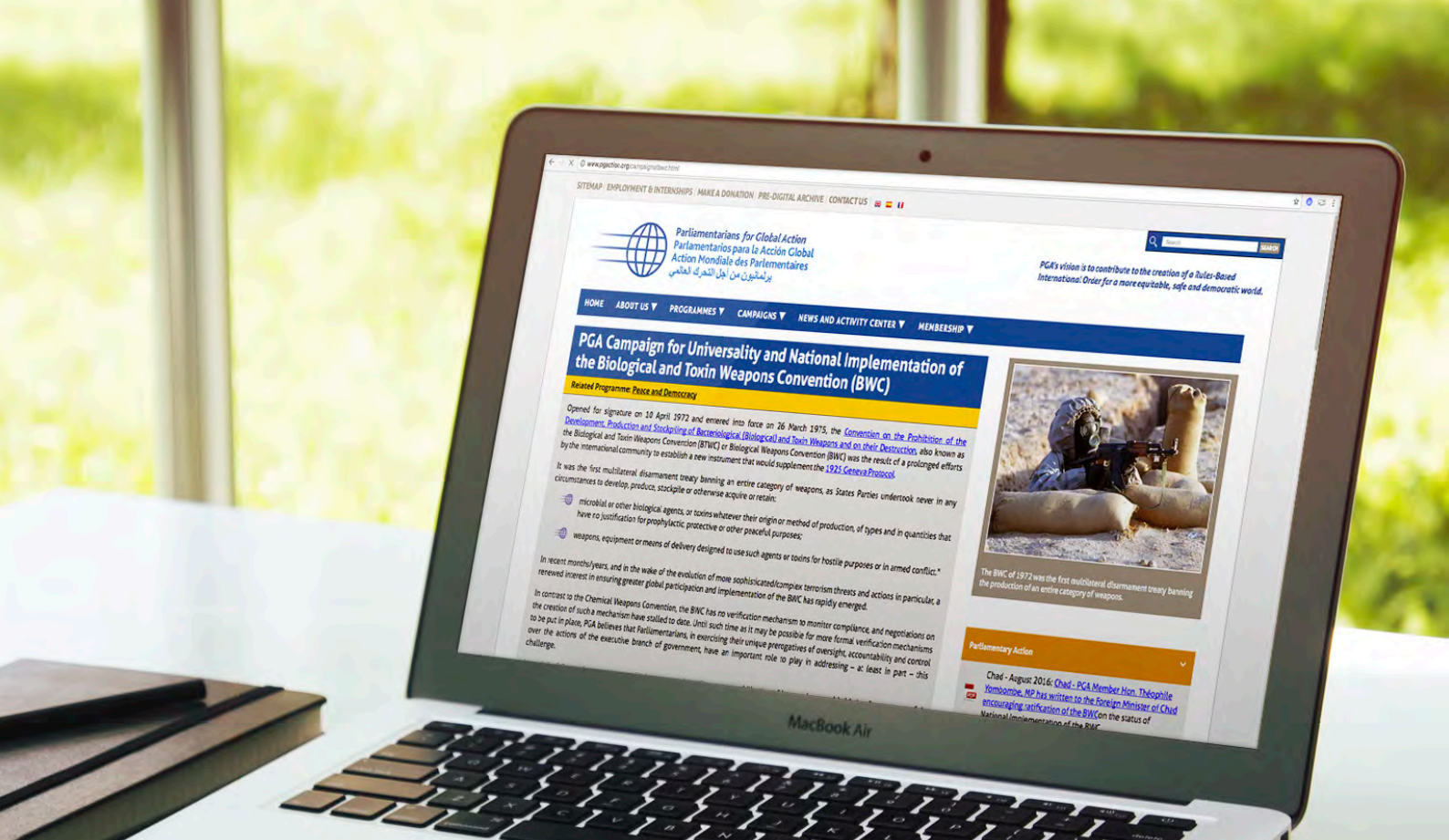
SALW/ATT Issues in the Media - April
- 

SALW/ATT Issues in the Media - March

MacBook

PGA compiles and aggregates a [Daily SALW/ATT Update](#) on articles of relevance/interest which it shares with its Global Membership worldwide.





PGA GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE UNIVERSALITY & IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

On 1 December 2015, PGA launched its Global Parliamentary Campaign to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC Campaign), aimed at promoting support for a strong, effective and universal BWC.



DESCRIPTION

The PGA BWC Campaign is comprised of a number of complementary components:

- Mobilizing PGA Members of Parliament (MPs) and other concerned Parliamentarians worldwide who possess a demonstrated track record of success in promoting signature and ratification of international treaties to also engage in promoting Universality and Implementation of the BWC
- International, Regional and/or National Parliamentary events to foster peer-to-peer dialogue and to provide essential platforms for sharing of respective experiences in promoting Universality and Implementation of the BWC
- Extensive, continuous provision of technical/legal advice by experts in the PGA Secretariat to PGA Member MPs worldwide to better equip them in their advocacy and other lawmaking initiatives in support of Universality and Implementation of the BWC
- Compilation and circulation to PGA Member MPs worldwide of regular media updates on crucial developments pertaining to the BWC which, in turn, will better inform them and provide new thinking on similar initiatives they can take
- Ongoing liaising and, as appropriate, cooperation with regional organizations, civil society, governments and UN bodies.



ACTIONS

As the first activity of this Campaign, PGA convened a Global Parliamentary Forum to Promote Universality and National Implementation of the BWC in San Salvador, El Salvador from 30 November - 1 December, 2015 at its 37th Annual Parliamentary Forum on the topic of [Role of Parliamentarians in Support of Peace and Security](#).



This Forum took place on the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the BWC and served to generate substantial political will among parliamentarians in advance of the 8th BWC Review Conference, to take place in late 2016.

Moreover, given PGA active Membership in 14 countries, in Africa, the Caribbean (Haiti), Pacific Islands and Asia, not yet States Parties to the BWC, PGA, and with the kind support of Canada's Global Partnership Programme, will organize a series of Regional Parliamentary Workshops and Field Missions in 2017 to Promote Universality and Implementation of the BWC, targeting these areas.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

The significant outreach by PGA staff to PGA Member MPs led to the taking of a large number of tangible, important initiatives by these PGA Parliamentary Members worldwide to promote Universality and National Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention.

These initiatives also served to highlight the particular importance of the BWC at a time of growing, emerging evidence that Non State Actors, including terrorist groups are increasingly seeking to acquire biological weapons capability and the importance of meaningful participation in the upcoming 8th Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva in November 2016.

Photo: Delegates to the 37th PGA Annual Parliamentary Forum, where the first BWC Campaign Activity took place.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

C. Universality (Ratification of/Accession to) BWC

PGA Members in the National Assembly of Angola, in particular Dip. Palmira P. Bernardo, made continuous efforts leading to parliamentary approval on April 21, 2015 for accession to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, as well as the Chemical Weapons Convention, by the Government of Angola.

The PGA Peace & Democracy Team also liaised closely with the Director of Multilateral Affairs of the Foreign Ministry of Angola in this matter between January-July 2016. On 26 July 2016, Angola became the 175th States Party of the BWC.

1.

ANGOLA

Africa



2.

CHAD

Africa



PGA Member Hon. Theophile Yomombe MP has written to PGA in September 2016 indicating that he will be meeting the Prime Minister of Chad shortly and will raise at this meeting, *inter alia*, the matter of the desirability of Chad acceding to the BWC. In June 2016, Hon. Theophile Yomombe [wrote to the Foreign Minister](#) specifically asking that the Government move forward with accession to the Biological Weapons Convention.

3.

LIBERIA

Africa



PGA Member Senator Stephen Zargo in Liberia, Chairman of the Defense, Intelligence and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Senate of Liberia has indicated in writing to PGA in April and July 2016 that he is moving forward with efforts to bring the matter of BWC ratification up for discussion in the Senate of Liberia and may be reverting to PGA in due course with a formal request for technical assistance.

PGA's Peace & Democracy Team has provided extensive legal and informational advice in this regard. Senator Zargo is liaising closely with the Office of the President of Liberia in connection with the matter of ratification of the Biological Weapons Convention and will seek to place the matter formally on the Floor of the Senate for deliberation when the Senate returns to Session later in 2016.



4.

NEPAL

Asia



In preparation to his participation to the PGA Annual Forum in San Salvador in November/December 2015, [Hon. Ramesh Lekhak MP met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal](#) in urging the Government to move forward with ratification of the Biological Weapons Convention.

Hon. Lekhak also wrote a letter at this time to the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister urging this step to be taken.

Hon. Lekhak informed PGA after his participation in PGA's 37th Annual Forum in El Salvador of a subsequent/follow-up meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal to share with him information on PGA's Annual Forum.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister reiterated once again the positive disposal of the Government of Nepal to move forward with ratification of the BWC, with respect to the aforementioned letter sent to him by Hon. Ramesh Lekhak MP and also in connection with their prior meeting on the same subject matter. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister also indicated to Hon. Ramesh Lekhak that the matter had now and since been discussed with relevant governmental officials and he had concluded it was in the interests of Nepal to ratify the BWC and that he had therefore instructed relevant officers to move forward with the process for the ratification of treaty and that Hon. Ramesh Lekhak, MP should anticipate some progress in the near future regarding this. This was also confirmed in a meeting of a PGA Delegation with the Foreign Minister of Nepal in Kathmandu in February 2016.

Since a change in the government of Nepal took place in July 2016, PGA member Hon. Ramesh Lekhak has now been appointed as a Cabinet Minister representing the majority Congress Party in the newly formed Coalition Government of Nepal (in August 2016) and he has informed PGA in writing that he anticipates that the new government of Nepal will present the BWC in parliament in the next 3-4 months for approval/ratification by Parliament before end of 2016.

A PGA Delegation was pleased to meet on 23rd September, 2016 with the Foreign Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and PGA Member, H.E. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat MP. Minister Mahat indicated that there was no objection to Nepal ratifying the Biological Weapons Convention and that he would make it a political priority upon his return to Kathmandu, following his participation in the High Level Segment of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

5.

DOMINICA

Latin America /
Caribbean



On 17th August 2016, and following extensive written correspondence/outreach from PGA and others, PGA received an official communication from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CARICOM Affairs of the Commonwealth of Dominica that it had prepared an Instrument of Succession to the BWC which was deposited on September 1st, 2016.

The Acting President of Haiti Hon. Jocelerme Privert (former PGA Member when Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee of Senate of Haiti) wrote to PGA in May 2016 indicating his commitment to seeking to move forward with ratification of the BWC by Haiti during the course of 2016. In July 2016, PGA Member Hon. Jerry Tardieu MP has written to PGA indicating his interest in following up in efforts to promote ratification of the BWC by Haiti with Acting President Prevert, who encouraged him to join PGA. Haiti attended for the first time attended a meeting of the BWC States Parties (Resumed PrepCom for 8th RevCon) in August, 2016.

6.

HAITI

Latin America /
Caribbean



PGA's Peace & Democracy Team was pleased to have been informed by PGA Member Hon. Yonhy Lescano Ancieta MP on May 17th, 2016 that Article 574 of the new/draft Criminal Code (Codigo Penal) - being debated in the Parliament of Peru in Lima at the time - introduced new provisions penalizing the use and manufacture of Weapons of Mass Destruction, including Biological Weapons.

7.

PERU

South America



8.

SAMOA

Pacific Islands



With the important contribution/facilitation efforts by Hon. Su'a William Sio, MP (New Zealand), Co-Convenor of PGA's Peace & Democracy Programme, PGA reached out to Amb. Leiataua Kilifoti Eteuati, who participated in PGA's 37th Annual Forum in El Salvador and indicated his intention to speak with the Prime Minister on the importance of the BWC.

In February/March 2016, Hon. Su'a William

Sio, MP (New Zealand), Co-Convenor of PGA's Peace & Democracy Programme, PGA reached out also to Associate Minister in Samoa, Hon. Lemalu Lemi Taefu MP to promote accession by Samoa to the BWC.

Hon. Taefu subsequently raised the matter directly with Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi in June/July 2016. Hon. Taefu also reached out to the Head/CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Samoa (Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi) in July 2016 to follow up on his earlier meetings/discussions on the matter with the Prime Minister of Samoa. Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi has indicated to Hon. Taefu that, as far as the BWC is concerned, she does not believe any compelling reasons exist why Samoa should not accede to this Convention and has informed PGA Member Hon. Taefu that her Office (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) are now working/coordinating together in moving forward the accession process to the BWC by Samoa.

9.

VANUATU

Pacific Islands



PGA reached out to the Foreign Ministry of Vanuatu in /May 2016 regarding the precise legal status of BWC ratification by Vanuatu, encouraging drafting of an Instrument of Succession to dispel some uncertainties regarding its status under the BWC. PGA was subsequently informed in writing in June 2016 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vanuatu that it has drawn up Instrument of Succession to Biological Weapons Convention which was kindly shared with PGA.

[Vanuatu deposited its Instrument of Succession to the BWC on September 6, 2016.](#)





ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

D. Implementation of the BWC

PGA Executive Committee Member Hon. M. Kulasegaran MP [wrote to the Deputy Foreign Minister of Malaysia in December 2015](#) inquiring about the possible desirability of reviewing existing BWC implementing legislation to ensure its continued adequacy and enforcement in light of more recent threats/concerns regarding biological weapons. In April 2016 Hon. M. Kulasegaran informed PGA that the Deputy Foreign Minister informed him that a review process of existing BWC implementing legislation is now ongoing.

1.

MALAYSIA

Asia



2.

ARGENTINA

Latin America/ Caribbean



[On 15 April 2016, PGA's National Group in Argentina presented to the Chamber of Deputies, a draft parliamentary Resolution addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship](#) inquiring about the status of implementing legislation of the BWC. In a subsequent meeting between PGA Board Member and former Presidential candidate Dip. Margarita Stolbizer and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister pledged to provide prompt and comprehensive response to the parliamentary question.

On 28 April 2016, Sen. Maria Landivar submitted [a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia](#) inquiring about the adequacy of existing legislation to implement the BWC. Sen. Landivar shared a [full response](#) from the Foreign Ministry in July 2016 which she kindly shared with PGA.

3.

BOLIVIA

Latin America/ Caribbean



4.

BRAZIL

Latin America/
Caribbean



On 13 May 2016, PGA was pleased to have [been informed by Dep. Jean Wyllys](#), PGA Member and Chair of the Brazilian PGA National Group that, on 11 May 2016, the [Office of the President of Brazil issued Decree n.8772 that regulates Law No. 13,123 of 20 May 2015](#). This Decree, inter alia, quadruples penalties for development of biological weapons.

The President of PGA's National Group in Chile, [Dip. Tucapel Jimenez met with the Under-Secretary of Foreign Relations, Mr. Edgar Riveros on May 24th, 2016](#) to discuss the status of Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). In 2014, Members of Congress drafted a bill containing strong measures on biological and chemical weapons, but unfortunately the bill was never introduced for vote. New legislation on the implementation of BWC is currently being developed in Congress.

5.

CHILE

Latin America/ Caribbean



6.

COLOMBIA

Latin America/ Caribbean



On 10 May 2016, PGA Members Rep. Alirio Uribe Muñoz, Rep. Ángela María Robledo and Rep. Iván Cepeda Castro addressed a letter to Dra. María Ángela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs, inquiring on the status of implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and subsequently received extensive communications in response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governmental agencies mentioning a number of initiatives that took place between 2011 to 2015 involving national institutions in charge of implementing the BWC to strengthen national capacity, including simulated biological attacks to measure the efficiency of inter-agency responses to such scenario.

On 18 April 2016, PGA's Board Member Dip. Ronny Monge Salas and Dip. Marvin Atencio, MP sent a parliamentary question addressed to the MFA on implementing legislation of the BWC.

7.

COSTA RICA

Latin America/ Caribbean



PGA Board Member and Deputy Convenor of PGA's Peace and Democracy Programme, Dip. Víctor Bisonó, secured the approval of both the House of Representatives and Senate of the Dominican Republic [for new legislation](#) which, inter alia, and for the first time, introduced measures penalizing the development, usage and manufacture of Biological Weapons. This new legislation was formally enacted into law by the Senate of the Dominican Republic in July/ August 2016.

8.

DOMINICAN REP.

Latin America/ Caribbean



9.

HONDURAS

Latin America/
Caribbean



PGA received a formal request for technical assistance in connection with BWC implementation from PGA Members Hon. Jorge Calix MP and Hon. Ramos Soto, following their participation in the PGA Annual Forum in El Salvador in December 2015, in the context of the revision of the Criminal Code of Honduras which is ongoing. On 8 June 2016, PGA provided comments to a portion of the Criminal Code in connection with this request.

This matter is expected to be brought up formally in the Congress of Honduras when it reconvenes in late summer 2016, as pledged by these two prominent Legislators in written messages addressed to the PGA Secretariat.

[On December 11, 2015, PGA Member Dip. Juan Felix Bogado Tatter submitted a report to the Speaker of Parliament](#) highlighting, inter alia, the importance of implementation of legislation on the BWC and the upcoming 8th Review Conference on the BWC.

10.

PARAGUAY

Latin America/ Caribbean



11.

PANAMA

Latin America/ Caribbean



PGA has reached out to Dip. Nubia Starnes who has informed PGA that she will raise the matter of BWC implementation when Parliament returns from recess in early July, 2016. Former Board Member Dip. Marco Ameglio (former Minister of Foreign Affairs) expressed support for the PGA initiative and contacted the ruling Party and relevant Ministries to encourage prompt action in response to Dip. Starnes' initiative.

On 25 April 2016, PGA Member Dip. Yohny Lescano Ancieta addressed a letter to Dra. Ana Maria Liliana Sanches Vargas de Rios, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, inquiring as to the status of implementation of the BWC. The letter mentioned different aspects of national implementation such as questions about which measures have been adopted, including any reports on changes in legislation. As a result, Minister Vargas de Rios submitted a full report on the current status of pending legislation and measures related to the implementation of the BWC in Peru.

12.

PERU

Latin America/ Caribbean



On 22 April 2016, PGA Board Member Dip. Berta Sanseverino sent a formal note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs inquiring about the status of implementation of the BWC.

13.

URUGUAY

Latin America/ Caribbean



OTHER ACTIONS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In addition to its extensive and highly effective work with PGA member MPs in promoting universality and national implementation of the BWC in Latin America, PGA also shared the Plan of Action adopted in El Salvador with a wide range of civil society organizations worldwide similarly engaged in promoting universality and national implementation of the BWC.
- PGA also liaised on an ongoing basis with the BWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of UNODA in Geneva, informing the ISU of any new developments in a timely manner, when and as they arose.
- To facilitate sharing of information with all interested stakeholders worldwide, PGA also posted frequently on the PGA Website and PGA Facebook page the new developments relating to its BWC Campaign.
- PGA also shared with its approximately 1300 Member-Parliamentarians periodic news compilations on developments pertaining to the BWC worldwide, as a means to underscore the importance of the treaty and to encourage continued taking of initiatives by PGA Members in promoting universality and national implementation of BWC.
- Media coverage in Argentina and Chile surrounding the initiatives taken was reflected in:
 - a. [Piden informes sobre la Convención de Armas Biológicas](#) (Argentina)
 - b. [Stolbizer Pide Informes Sobre La Convencion de Armas Biologicas](#) (Argentina)
 - c. [El diputado Jiménez, además, explicó que en la reunión con el subsecretario de RREE, un tercer punto revisado fue la implementación de las Convenciones relativas a Armas Biológicas y Químicas, “materias que actualmente se encuentran en elaboración de proyecto”](#) (Chile)

Resumed PrepCom on BWC

– United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, 6-10 August, 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

PGA participated in the Resumed Preparatory Committee Meetings from August 6-10, 2016 at the United Nations in Geneva for the 8th Review Conference of the BWC – to take place in Geneva in November, 2016 and [made a Statement during this PrepCom](#).

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/EE9C1E85D20CA8BB-C125800A005C0D23/\\$file/PGA+statement+PrepCom.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/EE9C1E85D20CA8BB-C125800A005C0D23/$file/PGA+statement+PrepCom.pdf)

PGA also participated in a Side Event organized by the Government of Canada during this PrepCom meeting.

8th BWC Review Conference: Promoting BWC Implementation, Enhancing Global Biosecurity Governance

5-7 September, 2016, Wuxi, China

PGA attended and participated in 'The Eighth BWC Review Conference: Promoting BWC Implementation, Enhancing Global Biosecurity Governance', organized by the Governments of China and Canada, and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) (Geneva) and [made a Statement](#).

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/transparency-and-outreach/upcoming-calendar.shtml>

Weekly Biological Weapons Disarmament Update



Parliamentarians for Global Action
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Biological Weapons Disarmament Updates



Biological Weapons Disarmament Updates (September 2016)



Biological Weapons Disarmament Updates (August 2016)



Biological Weapons Disarmament Updates (July 2016)



Biological Weapons Disarmament Updates (June 2016)



Our Latest Tweets

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28 Sep



PGA compiles and aggregates a [Weekly Biological Weapons Disarmament Update](#) on articles of relevance/interest, which we share with our Global Membership worldwide.





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