

# ICC CAMPAIGN UPDATE

## PGA ICC CAMPAIGN

### for the Effectiveness and Universality of the Rome Statute

NOV.- DEC.

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## A Universal Court with Global Support

PGA's ICC Campaign has so far been instrumental in 77 of the 124 ratifications of the Rome Statute, through which States provide their territories and populations with legal protection against the most serious crimes of international concern.

PGA's network of Parliamentarians furthermore assisted in the domestic implementation of the Rome Statute in 32 countries, therewith strengthening national legislative systems. Read about the campaign's highlight from the last two months and take action with the PGA ICC Campaign!



Ms. Barbara Lochbihler, MEP (Germany), Convenor of the PGA ILHR Programme and Vice-Chair of the Human Rights Subcommittee of the European Parliament

“The Rome Statute System is a community, where the respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law plays a pivotal role. It enables the ICC to intervene when the competent national institutions are not able or willing to fulfil their duty to bring perpetrators of the most serious international crimes to justice.”

## PGA’s 38th Annual Forum

### 9th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law: Parliamentarians of the world meet in Dakar to unite their voice in support of the ICC

On 9 and 10 December 2016, over 100 Parliamentarians from 51 countries of all regions of the world met in Senegal to attend PGA’s 9th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC), and affirmed strong support for the Rome Statute System.

This 9th CAP-ICC ended with the adoption of the **Dakar Plan of Action on the Prevention of Mass Atrocities, Strengthening the Rule of Law and Support for the International Criminal Court.**

Read more: [www.pgaction.org/news/cap-icc-ix.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/cap-icc-ix.html)





## 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on the Fight against Impunity in Francophone African Countries in Lomé (Togo)

On 10 and 11 November 2016, PGA organized, with the support of the National Assembly of Togo and the commitment of an active PGA member, Hon. Jean-Joël Kissi, MP and Chairman of the External Relations and Cooperation Committee, the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on Fighting against Impunity in Francophone African Countries. The meeting aimed at promoting the universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute against the backdrop of criticism the ICC has been facing from some governments on the continent. The meeting was attended by legislators from Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Senegal and Togo and concluded with the adoption of the [Plan of Action of Lomé 2016](#) where participants pledged their commitment to the ICC.

Read more: [www.pgaction.org/news/second-meeting-fight-against-impunity-francophone-africa.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/second-meeting-fight-against-impunity-francophone-africa.html)



## 7th Session of the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) Working Group

On 8 December 2016, PGA held the 7th Session of the Working Group on the Universality of the Rome Statute of the ICC in the MENA Region, in the framework of the 9th CAP-ICC. This meeting aimed to foster political dialogue on ICC within the region, as well as to explore the possible routes toward ratification and implementation.

Read more: [www.pgaction.org/news/7th-session-the-mena-working-group.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/7th-session-the-mena-working-group.html)



## PGA's participation at the 15th Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC

Between 16 and 24 November 2016, the PGA President (Argentina) and Members of PGA from Argentina, the DRC, Paraguay and the Netherlands actively participated in the 15th Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC, held in The Hague. PGA Member Hon. Emery Okundji, Member of the National Assembly of the DRC, made a strong statement calling on States to respect and protect the Rome Statute, promote its universality and render justice to the many victims of international crimes across the globe.

On 16 November, PGA organized a side-event, hosted by Estonia and Luxembourg, on "Challenges for the Universality and threats for the integrity of the Rome Statute system: the Role of Parliamentarians", with the notable participation of His Excellency Ibrahim Sorie, Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union and former Member of PGA.

Read more:

[www.pgaction.org/news/high-level-delegation-argentina-paraguay.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/high-level-delegation-argentina-paraguay.html)

[www.pgaction.org/news/emery-okundji-xxv-asp.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/emery-okundji-xxv-asp.html)

[www.pgaction.org/news/side-event-assembly-of-states-parties.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/side-event-assembly-of-states-parties.html)



## High-level Argentinian officials met to discuss and exchange knowledge about the role of the ICC in the fight against impunity

On 15 December 2016, PGA, in collaboration with the Chamber of Deputies and Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina, organized a Conference on the justice system created by the Rome Statute of the ICC. The Conference, hosted by the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina in Buenos Aires, aimed at providing a platform for Argentinian officials from the executive, legislative and judiciary branches to exchange and deepen their knowledge about the ICC system and its role in fighting impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern.

Read more:

[www.pgaction.org/news/argentina-shows-support-to-icc-meeting-to-address-judicial-cooperation-issues.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/argentina-shows-support-to-icc-meeting-to-address-judicial-cooperation-issues.html)

## Approval of the Kampala Amendments to the Crime of Aggression by the Senate of Argentina

On 3 November 2016, the Senate of Argentina approved the ratification of the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), adopted in Kampala in 2010. This decision follows the approval from the Chamber of Deputies on 28 September 2016. The process of adopting the Ratification Bill in the parliament was accelerated following a previous meeting of the PGA President, Dip. Margarita Stolbizer with the Ministry of Justice.

Read more: [www.pgaction.org/news/senate-of-argentina-approves-kampala-amendments.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/senate-of-argentina-approves-kampala-amendments.html)

### FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STATUTE



## The Chair of PGA Ukraine National Group Hosted a Roundtable on Rome Statute Implementation

On 19 December 2016, Hon. Hryhoriy Nemyria, MP, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and Interethnic Relations of the Parliament of Ukraine and Chair of PGA's Ukraine National Group, hosted a roundtable on the implementation of the Rome Statute in the national legal order. He used the opportunity of the roundtable to inform the members of the PGA Ukraine National Group on the outcomes of the CAP-ICC.

Read more:

[www.pgaction.org/news/using-icc-mechanisms-to-protect-ukraines-interest-international-courts.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/using-icc-mechanisms-to-protect-ukraines-interest-international-courts.html)

## The Chamber of Deputies of Paraguay unanimously adopted a comprehensive legislation implementing the Rome Statute

On 16 November 2016, Dip. Clemente Barrios Monges, PGA Member and President of the Committee on Justice, Labor and Social Welfare of the Chamber of Deputies, announced that the Chamber of Deputies unanimously adopted the implementing legislation of the Rome Statute of the ICC, including a number of recommendations made by PGA, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) and Amnesty International (AI).

Read more: [www.pgaction.org/news/step-closer-the-full-implementation-rome-statute-paraguay.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/step-closer-the-full-implementation-rome-statute-paraguay.html)



## Argentina Signed Voluntary Agreements on Protection of Witnesses

On 21 November 2016, the Ambassador of Argentina to the Kingdom of The Netherlands, H.E. Mr Horacio Salvador, and the ICC Registrar, Mr Herman von Hebel signed at the seat of the Court a voluntary agreement on cooperation with the ICC related to witnesses' protection. The Agreement was signed in the presence of the ICC President, Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, and the Under Secretary for Criminal Policy of the Ministry of Justice of Argentina, Dr Ricardo Martín Casares as well as PGA President, Dip. Margarita Stolbizer (Argentina).

This important development represents a crucial element in ensuring the effective functioning of the Court.

Read more: [www.pgaction.org/news/argentina-signs-voluntary-agreements-protection-of-witnesses.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/argentina-signs-voluntary-agreements-protection-of-witnesses.html)

## Costa Rica remains committed to fully and effectively implement the Rome Statute of the ICC

On 4 November 2016, PGA's Secretariat received a letter from the President of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, Dip. Antonio Alvarez Desanti in response to a letter sent by PGA's president, Dip. Margarita Stolbizer (Argentina). The letter informed PGA that the bill on implementation of the Rome Statute had already received a favorable decision from the Commission before which it was pending and had included in the Agenda of the Plenary. Dip. Desanti added that the cooperation bill was pending before the Security Commission with PGA Board Member, Dip. Ronny Monge, current Chair of said Commission, so that it may receive a swift approval and be included in the Agenda of the Plenary.



This important development represents a crucial element in ensuring the effective functioning of the Court.

Read more: [www.pgaction.org/news/costa-rica-effectively-implementing-rome-statute.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/costa-rica-effectively-implementing-rome-statute.html)

### ACTIONS OF PGA MEMBERS



PGA Member M Kulasegaran, MP (Malaysia)

## PGA Executive Committee Member, Hon. Kula Segaran, MP, published a column calling on Malaysia to accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC

On 9 November 2016, the Deputy-Convenor of the ILHR Programme, Hon. Kula Segaran published a column in Free Malaysia Today calling on the Attorney General to file the documents making the accession of Malaysia to the ICC as soon as possible.

Read more:

[www.pgaction.org/news/kulasegaran-pushes-for-malaysia-to-accede.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/kulasegaran-pushes-for-malaysia-to-accede.html)

## Chair of PGA National Group in the Dominican Republic Tables a Bill on Cooperation with the ICC

On 8 November 2016, Sen. Julio César Valentín, Chair of the PGA National Group of Dominican Republic, tabled a bill that creates the necessary national mechanisms to cooperate efficiently with the ICC. The bill includes mechanisms to allow mandatory cooperation for States Parties to the Rome Statute, according to part 9 of the Statute, as well as voluntary cooperation with the ICC. The Senate and the Chamber of Deputies created a bi-cameral committee to discuss this bill.

Read more: [www.pgaction.org/news/dominican-republic-bill-cooperation.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/dominican-republic-bill-cooperation.html)



## Chair of PGA National Group in Ecuador Tables a Bill on Cooperation with the ICC

On 21 September 2016, Dip. Marisol Peñafiel, Chair of the PGA National Group of Ecuador, tabled a bill to amend the Criminal Code and include national mechanisms to enhance the cooperation with the ICC. The Bill is now being discussed at the Legislation Committee.

Read more: [www.pgaction.org/news/ecuador-bill-cooperation-icc.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/ecuador-bill-cooperation-icc.html)

## PGA Board Member, Dip. Ronny Monge, Tables a Bill Implementing the Rome Statute in Costa Rica

On 6 December 2016, Dip. Ronny Monge, PGA Board Member, tabled bill n° 4573 which amends the Criminal Code of Costa Rica in order to implement the crimes included in the Rome Statute and the Kampala Amendments.

Read more: [www.pgaction.org/news/bill-rome-statute-costa-rica.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/bill-rome-statute-costa-rica.html)



## Parliamentary Constitutional Committee in Honduras approves Cooperation Bill with ICC

On 16 November 2016, the Constitutional Committee chaired by PGA member Dip. Ramos Soto, approved the bill that creates national mechanisms to efficiently cooperate with the ICC tabled by PGA member Dip. Jorge Cálix. The bill will be discussed when the plenary sessions resume in 2017.

Read more: [www.pgaction.org/news/honduras-bill-cooperation-icc.html](http://www.pgaction.org/news/honduras-bill-cooperation-icc.html)



