



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

Strategies to Strengthen the United Nations by Increasing Democratic Representation

Facilitated by Parliamentarians for Global Action

Date: 15 May 2017, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Venue: House of Representatives of the Netherlands; Room: “Wttewaal van Stoetwegenzaal“

Organized with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

AGENDA

1:00pm **Introduction**

Opening remarks by the Co-hosts: Mr. Pieter Omtzigt, MP (Netherlands), Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Member of PGA and Prof. dr. N.J. Schrijver, Member of the Dutch Senate of the Netherlands

1:20pm **Working Session I: Is there a need for democratic representation of civil society through parliamentarians at the United Nations**

- 1) The existing "mechanisms" for parliamentary attendance within UN Organs and the proposal of a UN Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA)
- 2) How will MPs participating in the UNPA be selected? Shall non- democratic Parliaments be represented? What happens if an MP's term ends before the UNPA term would end? What powers would the UNPA have and how would it relate to other UN organs?
- 3) How could a creation of a UN parliamentary body affect the decisions adopted by other UN organs?

Facilitator and opening of the panel: Prof. dr. N.J. Schrijver, Member of the Dutch Senate of the Netherlands

Panelists:

- **Mr. Andreas Bummel**, Global Coordinator, UNPA Campaign– *Introduction to the Idea of the UNPA* (10min)
- **Ambassador Anda Filip**, Director of External Relations at IPU – *Representation of Members of Parliaments within the UN System* (10min)
- **Univ.-Prof. i.R. Dr. DDr. h.c. Hans Köchler**, former Professor at the University of Innsbruck (10 min)
- **Hon. Charles Santiago**, Chair of the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights, Member of the Parliament of Malaysia, Member of PGA (10min)

2:00pm *Q & A Session with the Panelists (30min)*

2:30pm ***Coffee Break (15 Minutes)***

2:45pm **Working Session II: Sharing lessons-learned from Regional Parliaments and Organisations**

- 1) What are the added benefits of regional Parliaments? Why are they important?
- 2) Which challenges arise from working with a regional parliament if also being a member of a national parliament (scheduling issues of participating MPs)
- 3) How will the decisions be implemented into international and national agendas

Facilitator and opening of the panel: Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, Chair of the PGA International Council, Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (10min)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Felipe Micheline**, Board member of the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court, Head of Delegation of Uruguay of “la Comisión Administradora del Río de la Plata”, PGA Board member (10min)
- **Dr. Bernadette Lahai**, Chair of the PGA Sierra Leone National Group, Vice President of the Pan African Parliament (10min)
- **Prof. Niels Blokker**, Leiden University, *Regional parliaments: parliamentary tourism or panacea?* (10 min)

3:40pm *Q & A Session with the Panelists (30min)*

4:10pm **Working Session III: Summary on the Pros and Cons of the Development of Parliamentary Representation at the United Nations**

Facilitator: **Dr. David Donat Cattin**, Secretary-General of PGA

Open Discussion among all participants (40min)

4:50pm **Conclusion**

Concluding Remarks by **Prof. dr. N.J. Schrijver**, Member of the Dutch Senate of the Netherlands and **Dr. David Donat Cattin**, Secretary-General of PGA

5:00pm **End of the meeting**

MISSION STATEMENT OF PGA

VISION

To contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world.

MISSION

PGA, a non-profit, non-partisan international network of committed legislators, informs and mobilizes parliamentarians in all regions of the world to advocate for human rights and the rule of law, democracy, human security, non-discrimination and gender equality.

STRATEGY

PGA brings together parliamentarians with key stakeholders, including civil society and international organizations, across sectors; equips legislators with relevant knowledge and expertise; and achieves immediate impact and longer-term national implementation on programs and initiatives in support of the mission.

For more information regarding the programme, format and goals of the Strategy Meeting, please contact *Ms. Frederika Schweighoferova* at: schweighoferova@pgaction.org, +31 6 16 04 70 32