



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

PGGA

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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Parliamentarians for Global Action (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.

Photographs:

p. 4: Mr. Patrick Kensenhuis, MP (Suriname); Hon. Dr. Jennifer Simons, Speaker of National Assembly (Suriname); Hon. Dr. George Norton, MP and Minister (Guyana); Ms. Desiree de Souza-Croes, MP (Aruba); Sen. Wade Mark (Trinidad and Tobago)

p. 5: Hon. Ahmed Mahloof, MP (Maldives) and Sen. Antonio Trillanes (Philippines)

p. 12: *Top*: Ms. Petra Bayr, MP (Austria), PGA Treasurer; Dr. David Donat Cattin, PGA Secretary-General; Amb. Hahn Choong-hee, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN; Amb. Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the UN, Chair of PGA UN Committee; Dip Margarita Stolbizer (Argentina), President of PGA

p. 12: *Bottom*: Participants in PGA UN Committee meeting

p. 17: *l-r*: Hon. Shirley Osborne, MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Montserrat); Hon. Amina Maelainine, MP, Deputy-Speaker, Chamber of Representatives (Morocco)

p. 17: *Bottom*: Participants in Milan Forum

p. 23: Dep. Jean Wyllys (Brazil)

p. 25: *Top*: Dr. David Donat Cattin, PGA Secretary-General; Ms. Lia Quartapelle, MP (Italy); Don Virginio Colmegna (Italy), 2017 Defender of Democracy Awardee; Ms. Lamiya Aji Bashar, Yazidi civil society activist, 2017 Defender of Democracy Awardee; Ms. Emma Bonino (Italy), 2017 Defender of Democracy Awardee; Ms. Margarita Stolbizer (Argentina), PGA President; Ms. Petra Bayr, MP (Austria), PGA Treasurer

p. 25: *Bottom*: Participants in PGA Seminar in Costa Rica on Equality and Non-Discrimination on the basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in Latin America and the Caribbean”

p. 26: Amb. Stephen Rapp, Former United States Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues; Ms. Barbara Lochbihler, MEP (Germany); Hon. Hryhoriy Nemyria, MP (Ukraine); Ms. Ana Gomes, MEP (Portugal)

p. 27: Mr. Abid Raja, MP, Deputy-Speaker of the Storting (Norway)

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PGA SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Dear PGA Friends,

The year 2017 was defined by many achievements by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), the largest non-governmental organization of individual legislators committed to human rights and the Rule of Law, democracy, human security, non-discrimination and gender equality, with more than 1,350 members in 142 Parliaments around the world.

We are delighted to share with you our efforts towards a more equitable, just and peaceful world, with progress in each of our three programmes: [Peace and Democracy](#), [International Law and Human Rights](#), and [Gender, Equality and Population](#). PGA successfully completed year two of its 2016-18 strategic plan and gained 136 new PGA member-parliamentarians representing all regions of the world.

The current decade is being characterized by enormous challenges to human rights in almost all corners of the planet: repressive regimes, armed conflict and authoritarian and nationalistic governments are closing the space for political dissent, civil society and citizenship participation, as well as freedom of the media. In 2017, addressing these challenges was not only part of the daily work of our Members, strategically assisted by the PGA staff, but it was also central to the [39th Annual Forum](#) of the organization, which was devoted to the prevention of violent extremism and mass atrocities. Held in Milan, Italy, one of the main findings of the Forum regarded the close connection between these violent threats to democracy and the Rule of Law and the proliferation and growth of extremism and mass violence. The [Milan Plan of Action](#) adopted by the Forum represents a blueprint for collective action to address these threats in a coordinated and strategic manner, putting Parliamentarians and their civilian constituencies at the center of global action.

Thank you to all of our PGA friends for your continued encouragement and support of the PGA mission *to contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world*. With your help, we achieved significant results across all of our campaigns to end injustice and oppression around the world. I invite you now to continue learning about our significant achievements in the following 2017 Annual Report.

On behalf of PGA, I am grateful to our invaluable network of parliamentarians and our steadfast partners and look forward to continued success in 2018.

Sincerely,



David Donat Cattin (Ph.D., Law)
Secretary-General, Parliamentarians for Global Action



ABOUT PGA

PGA'S HISTORY

PGA was established in 1978 in Washington, DC, U.S.A., by concerned parliamentarians, from around the world, to take joint action on global problems, which could not be solved by any one government or parliament. PGA is a leading international Non- Governmental Organization, in general consultative status with the United Nations with a track-record in generating consensus among lawmakers on international treaties and standards and their domestic implementation. PGA promoted the negotiation, adoption and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

PGA'S MISSION

PGA informs and mobilizes parliamentarians to advocate for human rights and the rule of law, human security and gender equality.

PGA'S VISION

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

INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS

PEACE & DEMOCRACY

GENDER, EQUALITY & POPULATION



Mr. Patrick Kensenhuis
MP & Chair of PGA National Group, Suriname

Hon. Dr. Jennifer Simons
Speaker, National Assembly, Suriname

Hon. Dr. George Norton
MP & Minister of Social Cohesion, Guyana

Ms. Desirée de Sousa-Cruzeiro
MP, Guyana

OVERVIEW OF PGA MEMBERSHIP

2017

OVERVIEW OF PGA MEMBERSHIP

PGA membership is available to sitting members of Parliament committed to the vision and values of PGA. Members are invited to take action to advance our Campaigns, participate in regional and international events as well as relevant national initiatives, and have access to the skills and technical experience of Secretariat staff.

PGA mobilizes Members to take action on PGA's campaigns, which fall into three programme areas:

- [International Law and Human Rights](#);
- [Peace and Democracy](#); and
- [Gender, Equality and Population](#).

In order for a group or individual to qualify for PGA membership, the country's Parliament must adhere to all of the following criteria:

- the members must be from a freely elected parliament
- the election should be open to more than one party, or to those who have no party
- the Parliament must evidence an actual ability to engage in free debate and to oppose a legislative proposal tabled to Parliament by the Executive

(AS OF DEC. 2017)

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

1,354

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTS:

142

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS:

129

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS:

5

OBSERVER STATUS PARLIAMENTS:

8



136 PARLIAMENTARIANS JOINED PGA IN 2017.

THE FIVE REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS ARE:
ECOWAS PARLIAMENT, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, PARLACEN, PARLATINO,
PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

THE EIGHT OBSERVER STATUS PARLIAMENTS ARE:
ARUBA, CONGO BRAZZAVILLE, COOK ISLANDS, NIUE, MONTSERRAT,
PALESTINE, SOMALIA, SUDAN



MALE
931

FEMALE
423

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

REGIONAL
PARLIAMENTS

24

OBSERVER
COUNTRIES

13



PGA PRESENCE WORLDWIDE (AS OF DECEMBER 2017)

* denotes PGA National Group
 ** reflected in national lists

AFRICA (483)

1.	Angola	1	26.	Nigeria	30
2.	Benin	4	27.	São Tomé and Príncipe	2
3.	Botswana	2	28.	Senegal	4
4.	Burkina Faso*	15	29.	Sierra Leone*	47
5.	Cameroon	4	30.	South Africa	4
6.	Cape Verde*	28	31.	South Sudan	3
7.	Central African Republic*	17	32.	Swaziland	1
8.	Chad	4	33.	Tanzania*	14
9.	Comoros	3	34.	Togo	8
10.	Cote d'Ivoire*	18	35.	Uganda*	35
11.	DR Congo*	78	36.	Zambia	1
12.	Gabon	3	37.	Zimbabwe*	26
13.	Ghana	26			
14.	Guinea	3			
15.	Guinea Bissau	6			
16.	Kenya	23			
17.	Liberia	4			
18.	Madagascar	2			
19.	Malawi	11			
20.	Mali	5			
21.	Mauritania	15			
22.	Mozambique*	28			
23.	Namibia*	6			
24.	Niger	3			
25.	Nigeria	30			

AMERICAS (342)

1.	Argentina*	36	26.	Trinidad & Tobago*	16
2.	Antigua & Barbuda	1	27.	United States	11
3.	Barbados	2	28.	Uruguay*	22
4.	Belize	12	29.	Venezuela	2
5.	Bolivia	8			
6.	Brazil*	12			
7.	Canada	12			
8.	Chile*	15			
9.	Colombia*	10			
10.	Costa Rica*	10			
11.	Dominican Republic*	49			
12.	Ecuador	8			
13.	El Salvador*	47			
14.	Guatemala	3			
15.	Guyana	1			
16.	Haiti	13			
17.	Honduras	9			
18.	Jamaica	1			
19.	Mexico	2			
20.	Nicaragua	1			
21.	Panama	4			
22.	Paraguay	14			
23.	Peru	8			
24.	Saint Lucia	1			
25.	Suriname*	12			

ASIA (178)		EUROPE (208)	
1. Afghanistan	7	1. Albania*	14
2. Bangladesh	13	2. Armenia	2
3. Bhutan	1	3. Austria	3
4. Cambodia	8	4. Azerbaijan	2
5. India*	21	5. Belgium	7
6. Indonesia	14	6. Bosnia and Herzegovina	2
7. Japan	19	7. Denmark*	16
8. Kyrgyzstan	1	8. Finland	5
9. Malaysia*	36	9. France	1
10. Maldives	1	10. Georgia	2
11. Mongolia	1	11. Germany	3
12. Nepal	3	12. Greece	2
13. Pakistan*	26	13. Ireland	8
14. Philippines	3	14. Italy*	14
15. Singapore	1	15. Lithuania	1
16. Sri Lanka*	23	16. Malta	4
		17. Netherlands	6
		18. Norway	7
		19. Poland	2
		20. Portugal	6
		21. Romania	1
		22. Serbia	1
		23. Slovenia	2
		24. Spain	2
		25. Sweden*	23
		26. Switzerland	2
		27. United Kingdom*	24
		28. Ukraine*	46

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA (55)		THE PACIFIC (51)	
1. Algeria	2	1. Australia*	10
2. Bahrain	1	2. Fiji	18
3. Iraq*	25	3. Kiribati	1
4. Jordan	6	4. Micronesia (Federated States of)	1
5. Lebanon	1	5. New Zealand*	8
6. Morocco	4	6. Papua New Guinea	1
7. Oman	1	7. Samoa	2
8. Tunisia	6	8. Solomon Islands	1
9. Turkey	2	9. Tonga	4
10. Yemen	7	10. Tuvalu	2

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS (24)		OBSERVER COUNTRIES (13)	
1. European Parliament	19	1. Aruba	2
2. ECOWAS Parliament	**	2. Congo Brazzaville	2
3. Pan-African Parliament	**	3. Cook Islands	3
4. PARLACEN	3	4. Montserrat	1
5. PARLATINO	2	5. Niue	1
		6. Palestine	1
		7. Somalia	1
		8. Sudan	2

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Dip. Margarita Stolbizer
Argentina
President of PGA



Ms. Margareta Cederfelt
Sweden
Chair of International Council



Dip. Ronny Monge Salas
Costa Rica



**Dep. Dieudonné Upira
Sunguma**
DR Congo



Dip. Víctor Orlando Bisonó
Dominican Republic



Shri Tariq Anwar, MP
India



Mr. Kula Segaran, MP
Malaysia



Mr. Su'a William Sio, MP
New Zealand



Dip. Karina Sosa,
El Salvador



Ms. Barbara Lochbihler, MEP
Germany
European Parliament



**Ms. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful,
MP**
Ghana



**Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar,
MP**
Pakistan



Mr. Mark Pritchard, MP,
United Kingdom



Ms. Petra Bayr, MP
Austria
Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

CHAIR

Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP, Sweden

COUNCILLORS

Mrs. Albana Vokshi, MP, Albania

Dip. Cornelia Schmidt Liermann, Argentina

Ms. Maria Vamvakinou, MP, Australia

Dep. Jean Wyllys, Brazil

Dep. Reine Benao Sakande, Burkina Faso

Dep. José Manuel Sanches Tavares, Cape Verde

Dep. Emilie Beatrice Epaye,
Central African Republic

Dip. Tucapel Jimenez, Chile

Dip. Alirio Uribe Munoz, Colombia

Dip. Marvin Atencio Delgado, Costa Rica

Dep. Mariam Traore, Cote d'Ivoire

Ms. Mette Gjerskov, MP, Denmark

Dip. Magda Rodríguez, Dominican Republic

Dip. Mario Tenorio, El Salvador

Ms. Ana Gomes, MEP,
(Portugal) European Parliament

Dr. Suzi Barbosa, MP, Guinea-Bissau

Mr. Faig Al Sheikh Ali, MP, Iraq

Ms. Lia Quartapelle, MP, Italy

Mr. Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri, MP, Malaysia

Dep. Antonio Niquice, Mozambique

Hon. Eveline Nawases-Taye, MP, Namibia

Ms. Jacqui Dean, MP, New Zealand

Sen. Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan, Pakistan

Mr. Claude Kamanda, MP, Sierra Leone

Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva, MP, Sri Lanka

Mr. Patrick Kensenhuis, MP, Suriname

Hon. Jasson Rweikiza, Tanzania

Sen. Wade Mark, Trinidad and Tobago

Dr. Hryhoiyi Nemyria, MP, Ukraine

Dip. Macarena Gelman, Uruguay

Ms. Fungayi Jessie Majome, MP, Zimbabwe

PGA SECRETARIAT

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International Law and Human Rights Programme
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UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIR

H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein

UNITED NATIONS AMBASSADORS / GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

H.E. Mr. Jan Kickert
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Austria

H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Denmark

H.E. Mr. Juan Carlos Mendoza García
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica

H.E. Ms. Minna-Liina Lind
Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Estonia

H.E. Amb. João Vale de Almeida
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the European Union

H.E. Ms. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Ghana

H.E. Mr. Sebastiano Cardì
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Italy

H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-yul
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea

H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Sweden

H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Switzerland

H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Yelchenko
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Ukraine

UN SECRETARIAT AND AGENCIES

Mr. Adama Dieng
UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide



**INTERNATIONAL LAW
AND HUMAN RIGHTS**



2017

CLOSING GAPS OF IMPUNITY FOR GENOCIDE, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, WAR CRIMES AND THE CRIME OF AGGRESSION

A) CAMPAIGN FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS AND UNIVERSALITY OF THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC CAMPAIGN)

The protection of Human Rights and the Rule of Law cannot be ensured if there is impunity for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression. PGA's *Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court System (ICC Campaign)* aims to combat impunity for those most serious crimes to the international community via domestic and international prosecutions and by providing access to justice for victims.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Thus far, with support from PGA donors and partners, PGA has been able to mobilize MPs, on a multi-partisan basis, who have contributed directly to 77 of the 123 ratifications to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Last year, PGA also contributed to reversing two withdrawal processes from the Rome Statute initiated by The Gambia and South Africa. In addition, PGA's network of parliamentarians assisted in the domestic implementation of the Rome Statute in 36 countries.

Most recently in 2017, PGA Members in Paraguay championed the bipartisan adoption of a comprehensive legislation that implements all the norms of the Rome Statute on crimes and cooperation in the domestic legal order.

In 2017, the PGA ICC Campaign contributed to a major international advance as described (right) by Ms. Barbara Lochbihler, MEP (Germany), Co-convenor of PGA's International Law and Human Rights Programme.

PGA has been supporting the efforts of MPs to ensure the universal ratification of the Kampala Amendments. In **Panama**, the parliament ratified the Amendments upon the pro-active initiative of PGA members. PGA members in **Honduras** have

led to the unanimously approval by the Plenary of the inclusion of the crime of aggression in the new Criminal Code.

In addition, the PGA **Argentina** National Group spearheaded a *seminar on cooperation with the ICC for parliamentarians, judges, and prosecutors*, during which officials announced the deposit of the instrument of ratification of the Kampala Amendments.

Another notable step on the universality of the Rome Statute took place in **Haiti**, where PGA's long-term engagement resulted in a commitment by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in July 2017 to move the country towards ratification. Furthermore, in 2017, the PGA Secretariat provided crucial legislative assistance to the Governments of **Solomon Islands** and **Kiribati**. Both Governments – together with the Government of **Tuvalu** – committed to join the Rome Statute system at the 48th Pacific Islands Forum.



**MS. BARBARA LOCHBIHLER,
MEP (GERMANY)**

CO-CONVENOR, PGA
INTERNATIONAL LAW &
HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

“The global membership of PGA welcomes the historic decision of the 123 States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on the activation of the crime of aggression. 71 years after the Nuremberg trial, there will be another international jurisdiction that will finally be able to adjudicate on one of the most serious crimes of concern to the International Community as a whole: the planning and waging of aggressive wars of a State against another State. PGA remains engaged to ensure that all law-abiding and peace-loving nations of the world will accept the ICC jurisdiction over all core crimes under international law, namely genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.”

TOWARDS ABOLISHING THE DEATH PENALTY

B) PLATFORM FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

PGA's Global Parliamentary Platform for the Abolition of the Death Penalty addresses the discriminatory application of the death penalty against poor and marginalized groups and works for the ratification of international legal norms prohibiting the death penalty. The Platform works with MPs to increase political will to abolish or restrict the use of the death penalty through modification of national legal systems (including constitutions) and new ratifications of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (OP2 ICCPR). PGA also encourages MPs to take action to support the UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

In 2017, PGA made notable strides towards abolishing the Death Penalty and combatting its re-emergence in states. The Goal of the Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty is a stronger, shared culture of legality and human rights where death penalty has no place and justice is not revenge; and contribution to the abolition of the death penalty worldwide and to the emergence of an international legal norm prohibiting capital punishment.

PGA convened a Parliamentary Roundtable on the abolition of the death penalty in Malaysia in July, which included parliamentarians and civil society members, and resulted in an action plan for commitment to the abolition of the death penalty. At the roundtable, Hon. Azalina Othman Said, MP, Minister of Law (pictured above) delivered a statement that a new bill was to be introduced, abolishing the mandatory death penalty for drug-related offenses, informing that in November 2017, the bill was passed by Parliament changing the mandatory death penalty for drug-related offenses to discretionary. The Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty also focused on the Philippines, where PGA Senators played a strategic role in blocking death penalty legislation that had regretfully obtained widespread support for adoption in the Lower House.

PGA also engaged parliamentarians from India, Iraq, Pakistan, Jordan, and the Maldives in discussions on reducing the scope of the death penalty during the Parliamentary Roundtable on Strengthening the Rule of Law held in Amman and the side-event to its 39th Annual Forum in Milan (Italy), entitled "Moving Away from Capital Punishment in Asia" both held in November of 2017.

Additionally, on the 15th World Day against the Death Penalty PGA authored a Parliamentary Factsheet on Poverty and the Death Penalty to highlight that the death penalty is used discriminatorily, often against the most vulnerable people.



HON. TAGHREED HIKMAT

MEMBER OF THE SENATE
OF JORDAN, PGA MEMBER

"We, as a State that recognises the religion of Islam, may not be in a position to abolish death penalty completely, but we can reduce the number of capital offenses to the gravest crimes against human life [...]. Real, authentic Islam dictates that we use punishments lower than the death penalty to avoid capital punishments."



HON. SERGE MAYAMBA

MEMBER OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO.
TREASURER OF PGA'S
NATIONAL GROUP IN DRC

"Although the Democratic Republic of the Congo has not carried out any execution for more than 10 years, the justice system in my country still gives out death sentences in significant numbers. I believe that this Factsheet will be very helpful in my efforts to advocate to my fellow parliamentarians and my government for a justice system that would be fairer to all sections of the Congolese people, and for the definitive abolition of the capital punishment."

PROTECTING THE OCEANS – IMPLEMENTING SDG14

B) PARLIAMENTARY CAMPAIGN ON THE PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS (IN FORMATION)

The Ocean covers 70 percent of the world's surface and provides for half of the oxygen in our atmosphere. This means that every second breath we take comes from the Ocean. Fisheries further provide a vital source of livelihood, employment, recreation, trade and economic well-being for people throughout the world.

Yet, laws governing the appropriate use of the oceans are almost non-existent. Effective and strong international, regional and national legal frameworks are absolutely necessary to create a better maritime governance. On a global scale, it has been estimated that Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing results in global losses of as much as US\$23.5 billion per year. However, there is a shocking lack of transparency and accountability within the international fishing industry that leads not only to environmental crimes, but also to human security risks.

Since the lack of regulation to successfully implement the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (life below water) has become an eminent issue, stakeholder and other experts in the oceans field felt a strong need for the involvement of Lawmakers. This is why the PGA Board decided to start a Parliamentary Campaign on the Protection of the Oceans. Parliamentarians are a key missing piece towards sustainable success in saving our oceans. As the democratically-elected representatives of the people, parliamentarians have the voice, visibility and legislative power to bring about change.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

In June 2017, launched the Parliamentary Campaign on the Protection of the Ocean and Implementation of SDG14 at the UN Oceans Conference. PGA has been developing partnerships with other organizations working to protect the Oceans and hopes to secure resources to build this campaign in 2018.

In line with Sustainable Development Goal 14, PGA this new campaign aims to 1) End illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, 2) Conserve coastal and marine areas, 3) Increase the benefits to Small Island developing and least developed States from the sustainable use of marine resources, 4) Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, and 5) Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans by implementing international law.

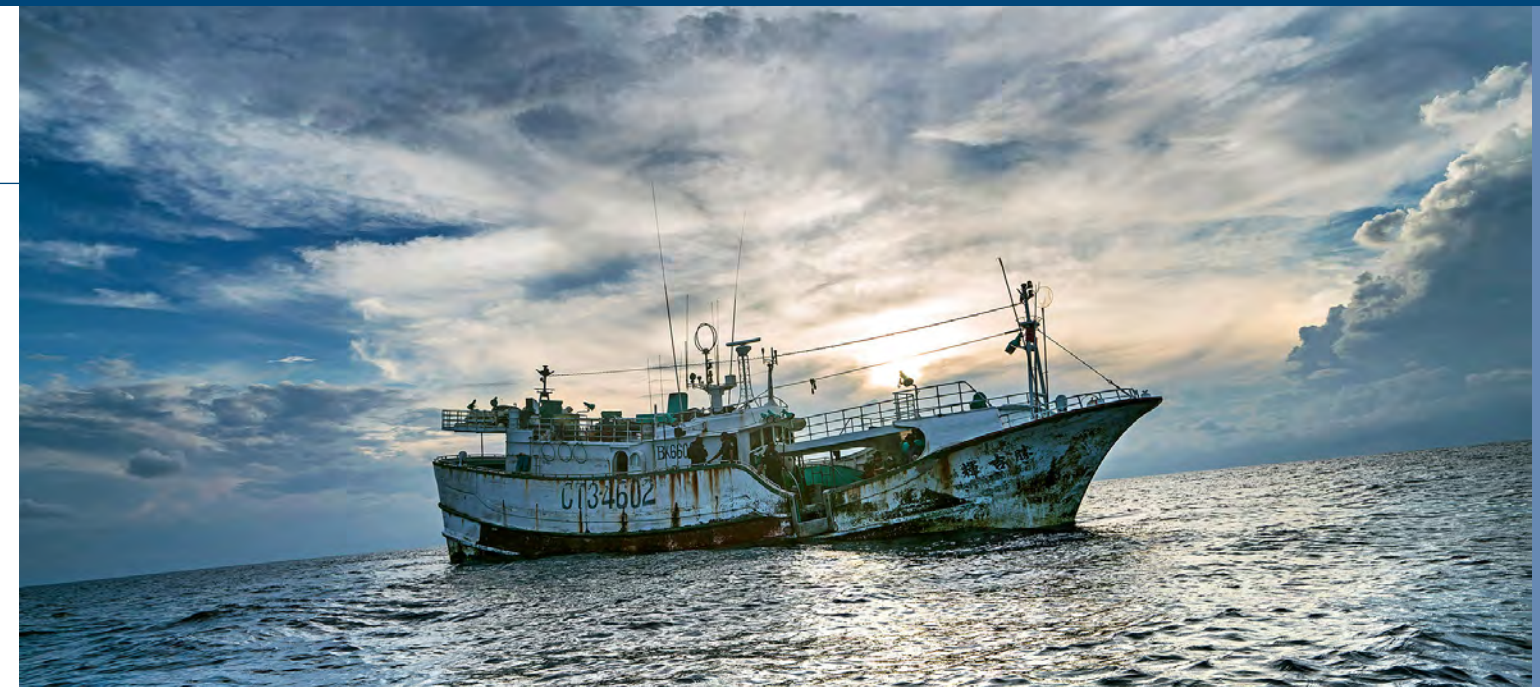
A particular focus of PGA's Campaign is to build political will for the national implementation of new international regulatory frameworks for that purpose. That, in turn, will create a more sustainable fishing and seafood industry that will contribute to greater food security, prevention of health problems, and reduction of marine pollution.



PICTURED
(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT):

Dep. Mamadou Lamine Thiam, MP, Senegal; Ms. Petra Bayr, MP, Austria; Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP, Sweden; Mr. Tony Long, CEO, Global Fishing Watch; Mr. Kula Segaran, MP Malaysia.

The Sheng Chi Huei 12, a Taiwanese fishing vessel. Photo: Benjamin Lowy/ Reportage; The Outlaw Ocean, Ian Urbina, The New York Times



2017 PGA ANNUAL FORUM: PARLIAMENTARY ACTION IN PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND MASS ATROCITIES MILAN, ITALY

The current situation in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and other states demands a comprehensive response to prevent violent extremism and mass atrocities.

Parliamentarians have a key role to play in global efforts to promote and protect the Rule of Law and human rights but this important cohort of law-makers and opinion leaders have not been part of a global strategy. PGA addressed this gap at its 2017 Annual Forum in Milan, Italy where 108 legislators from 54 countries adopted the Milan Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism and Mass Atrocities, setting a roadmap for future action through PGA's current Campaigns:

- ending impunity for violent extremists and perpetrators of mass atrocities and ensuring justice for the victims falls under the PGA ICC Campaign;
- halting the proliferation of conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction to violent extremists falls under the BWC and SALW/ATT Campaigns;
- rehabilitating children and adults who were forcibly married, or otherwise enslaved by these groups, can fall under our Campaign against Child, Early and Forced Marriage;

- preventing discriminatory, hateful and vengeful policies that nurture radicalization, such as summary executions, and protecting the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups can fall under the Campaign against Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) and Campaign for Abolition of the Death Penalty.

Additionally, PGA will focus on the following issues discussed in Milan as cross-cutting themes: the role of Parliamentarians in protecting fundamental human rights (the responsibility to protect), which is part of all PGA Campaigns; the challenges of shrinking space for civil society organizations; and the alarming wave of violations of the human rights of Parliamentarians, so powerfully presented by our speakers in Milan.

PGA organized the Milan Forum in partnership with the Montreal Institute of Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) and the Stanley Foundation. PGA Members in the Italian Parliament took the lead in developing a large and influential "Italian Organizing Committee" for the Milan Forum that was instrumental to the project's success and included members and officials of both houses of the Italian Parliament and the European Parliament; Italian Government: Metropolitan City of Milan;

Regional Government; judiciary; universities and think tanks; civil society, and the media.

The Milan Forum demonstrated that Parliamentarians from all regions and across the political spectrum take the issues of prevention of violent extremism and mass atrocities very seriously and are eager to work across political and cultural identities on regional and national follow-up.



**PEACE AND
DEMOCRACY**



2017

PROMOTING A SAFER AND MORE PEACEFUL WORLD

A) CAMPAIGN FOR UNIVERSALITY AND NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC CAMPAIGN)

In the wake of the evolution of more sophisticated and complex terrorism and conflict-related threats, a renewed interest in ensuring greater global participation in and implementation of the 1972's Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) has rapidly emerged. PGA is promoting the universality and implementation of the BWC in order to prevent the development, manufacture and stockpiling of Biological Weapons, which, together with other Weapons of Mass Destruction, threaten the very existence of our planet and its people.

PGA works with relevant partners and institutions to promote the full compliance of States with the BWC and relevant legally binding instruments, including UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) as reinforced by the unanimously adopted UNSC Resolution 2325 (2016), which expressly recognizes the pivotal role of Parliamentarians.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

PGA participated in efforts for ratification of the BWC in the Pacific Islands, where PGA Member (and Associate Government Minister) **Hon. Taefu Lemi Taefu, MP (Samoa)** played a leadership role in his country's accession to the BWC in September 2017. Hon. Taefu delivered a powerful speech on behalf of PGA at the Meeting of States Parties to the BWC, held at UN Headquarters in Geneva in December.

In February and July, prominent PGA delegations with Lawmakers from Dominican Republic and Trinidad & Tobago held field missions to Port Au Prince, Haiti for the purpose of advocating for the ratification of the BWC. The field mission met with both Speakers and Deputy-Speakers of the Haitian Parliament, as well as the new Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Chief of Staff of the President of the Republic, among other high-level officials. As a result of these actions, the BWC is now inscribed in the agenda of Parliament for adoption by a joint plenary session of both Houses that may take place during 2018.

During the course of 2017, many extensive and measurable initiatives were taken by PGA Members worldwide to promote ratification and implementation of the BWC. The efforts of PGA members led to proposed new draft legislation in Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile, as well as the first ever submission of a Confidence Building Measure (CBM) Declaration by the Government of Dominican Republic.

PGA facilitated a *Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop and a Regional Latin America Workshop* for parliamentarians, government officials and UN agency officials to discuss and review the BWC, and worked with participating MP to identify a range of practical steps and initiatives that could be taken to promote ratification and implementation of the BTWC in their respective countries. Ongoing follow up actions may bring about new ratifications and domestic measures to implement the BWC, in line with the significant results achieved by PGA since the Annual Forum held in El Salvador at the end of 2015.

MINISTER LEMALU LEMI TAEFU

PGA MEMBER AND MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

"I was very pleased to be informed several hours ago that the Government of Samoa has deposited our Instrument of Accession to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention with the State Department of the United States of America, one of the Depository States under the Convention, so becoming the 179th State Party to this vital international treaty. The terrible consequences of the usage, manufacture, development and stockpiling of Biological Weapons - in common with other Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) - by definition, require universal adherence to this Convention. Our small world is filled with grave dangers and uncertainties, including the ever growing risk that Non State Groups may also seek to access and use such weapons. One can only watch the latest news to see that the world in which we live is no longer a safe place. It is therefore incumbent on all countries to join the BTWC without further delay. The time to act is now. Countries that have not ratified or acceded must do so now, for your own county's sake as well as for your region and, indeed, for the entire global community. We owe it to all generations to join this Convention now.

I have also greatly appreciated the expert advice and technical inputs from Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) over the past 18 months in my journey to get Samoa to this stage. The journey has never been easy, but the support and guidance of PGA was instrumental in my own efforts to get Samoa to accede. It is much appreciated."



B) CAMPAIGN TO ADDRESS THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) AND TO PROMOTE THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT)

This year, PGA continued to work towards making the world a more secure place by contributing to the ratification and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), a multilateral, legally-binding agreement that establishes common standards for the international trade of conventional weapons and seeks to reduce the illicit arms trade.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

As of December 2017, PGA Members have made important, measurable contributions to moving the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) signature process forward in 44 of the 130 UN Member States that have signed the ATT and similar important and measurable contributions vis-a-vis 39 of the 94 UN Member States that have ratified the ATT to date. In 2017, PGA members in Honduras played a leadership role in their country's ratification of the ATT.

While promoting the UN Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), PGA secured commitments from a range of MPs and high-level officials to urge their countries to submit national reports to the relevant monitoring body. Additionally, PGA Executive Committee Member and Chair of Foreign Relations Committee of Legislative Assembly of El Salvador, Dip. Karina Sosa and PGA Member, Dip. Pablo González (Uruguay), contributed to a unanimous vote within the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights of Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EUROLAT) for the adoption of a resolution addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons

During 2017, in continuity with the last four years of work, PGA Members in Brazil in both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate made a number of decisive contributions that ultimately led to Brazil's recent ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty in early 2018.



SEN. ANA AMELIA

“Brazil is one of the countries with the highest rate of deaths by fire arms. The organized crime is becoming more and more powerful, with the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. The Ratification of the Treaty by Brazil is an important measure to prevent the illicit trade of arms and combat organized crime”

PGA MEMBER



DIP. KARINA SOSA

Dip. Karina Sosa, joined the unanimous vote of Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights of EUROLAT adopting a Resolution Addressing The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. Dip. Karina Sosa noted that the document “urges continued work and commitment to eradicate the use of small arms and light weapons and to strengthen cooperation among countries...Not every country produces firearms; many of us are victims of these, as is the case in El Salvador and Central America in general, so it is necessary to review the cooperation of countries to contribute to eradicate the use of these weapons.”

PGA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEMBER AND CHAIR OF
FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE OF LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY OF EL SALVADOR

**GENDER, EQUALITY
AND POPULATION**



2017

A) CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE (CEFM CAMPAIGN)

Child, early and forced marriage is a violation of human rights and a development challenge that prevents approximately 15 million girls every year, and their countries, from achieving their potential. The practice perpetuates cycles of poverty, undermines efforts to reduce the numbers of women and children dying in childbirth and infancy, and holds back girls from attending school and contributing to their countries' economic development and prosperity.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

In 2017, PGA members contributed to reforms in Civil and Family Codes in **Costa Rica**, the Chamber of Deputies of the **Dominican Republic**, **El Salvador**, **Guatemala**, **Honduras**, and **Trinidad & Tobago** raising the minimum age of marriage for boys and girls to 18 and repealing the exceptions that allowed marriage under this age, reaffirming their commitment to ending child marriage.

In collaboration with its National Group in the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador, and with support from UN Women and UNICEF, PGA convened the Legislative Forum "Sharing Experiences and Best Practices in Latin America and the Caribbean to Prevent and Eliminate Child Marriage and Early Unions," on July 5th in San Salvador, where PGA Board member **Dip. Ronny Monge** (Costa Rica), **Dip. Gloria Reyes** (Dominican Republic) and **Dip. Soledad Buendía** (Ecuador), shared their experiences on addressing child marriage with their Salvadoran peers.

During this Legislative Forum, the Chair of the Committee on the Family, Childhood, Adolescence, the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities and its members, as well as members of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality and other Committees, vowed to analyse and discuss the proposal to prohibit this harmful practice in their next parliamentary session.



LEARNING ABOUT THE DECISION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, DIP. GLORIA REYES FROM DOMINICAN REPUBLIC INDICATED:

"I celebrate this development in defense of the rights of minors in El Salvador with the end to child marriage in their legislation. I congratulate each and every legislator who voted to protect the country's children demonstrating their political will and commitment to fight this hindrance affecting many countries and, with grave concern, Central America. This is only the beginning to eliminate child marriage; we must continue with systematic actions that engage all sectors of society to promote a cultural change that increases awareness among society at large and families in particular."



HON. MARY NAVICHA, MP, PGA MEMBER IN MALAWI, WRITES:

"The change in the law will allow girls in Malawi to stay in school, thereby increasing their chances of acquiring relevant skills and knowledge to pursue careers. Despite this achievement, it is imperative for all concerned stakeholders in the country to work together to change discriminatory attitudes. There is a need for massive community sensitization on the new law, especially to parents and guardians living in rural areas. Ministries of Gender and Justice must also be supported to ensure the new constitutional amendment is harmonized with various pieces of discriminatory legislation against women and girls."

B) CAMPAIGN AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI CAMPAIGN)

As the only global Parliamentary network bold enough to take on this issue, PGA has continued to blaze new trails in its SOGI Campaign, which aims to sensitize parliamentarians on human rights protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) persons on the basis of the principles of equality and non-discrimination and to undertake education and technical assistance designed to increase political will in support of the effective application of human rights norms and standards in accordance with international obligations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

In 2017, PGA launched its Inclusion Site as a user-friendly knowledge platform designed for parliamentarians and other relevant stakeholders who are seeking tools and information to promote equality, non-discrimination and inclusion of LGBTI people (in English and Spanish) (<http://www.pgaction.org/inclusion/>) It has already been visited over 10,000 times. PGA's Advancing the Human Rights and Inclusion of LGBTI Persons : a Handbook for Parliamentarians, co-authored with UNDP, is available on the site in five languages. The Handbook is an innovative and practical tool that can be used to develop concrete strategies to achieve progress on legislative reform. We encourage you to share your questions and requests for technical assistance with the PGA Secretariat.

In March, PGA organized a Seminar on Equality and Non-Discrimination on the basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Latin America and the Caribbean in San José, Costa Rica (March 9-10) with parliamentarians from Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago and LGBTI civil society representatives from Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, and Suriname. Parliamentarians, in collaboration with LGBTI activists of their countries, adopted the San José Commitments to Action pledging to advance equality and inclusion of LGBTI persons. The completed actions can be consulted here.

On June 7, the Human Rights Committee of Costa Rica's Legislative Assembly adopted a project of "Law that Recognizes the Rights to a Gender Identity and Equality before the Law." The vote came a month after the Inter-American Court on Human Rights convened hearings on this matter; PGA submitted a supportive Advisory Opinion.

In line with her commitment at PGA's Seminar in San José, Dip. Gloria Reyes (MP from Dominican Republic) organized a workshop to share the SOGI Handbook for Parliamentarians with some of her colleagues and encourage them to use the publication as an advocacy tool for their work. Fifteen Dominican legislators participated in the workshop.

On October 27, PGA convened a Roundtable Discussion on Effective Anti-Discrimination Measures based on SOGI in South America and the Caribbean, in Paramaribo, Suriname, with the participation of MPs from Aruba, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. The participating Surinamese MPs agreed to meet with LGBTI civil society in the country, to request the Surinamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to join the Equal Rights Coalition, and to discuss the draft legislation to protect the patrimonial rights of same-sex partners.



DIP. RONNY MONGE SALAS, COSTA RICA

CO-CONVENOR OF
PGA GENDER, EQUALITY
AND POPULATION
PROGRAMME

"Because of PGA, laws have been passed in Costa Rica. My involvement with PGA has been a true learning experience. If I hadn't been a part of PGA, I wouldn't have signed the legislation on marriage equality. PGA members have a responsibility as MPs to talk to colleagues about LGBTI equality. PGA must continue sensitization of MPs to achieve a world that is fair."

2017 IN REVIEW

January 25: PGA Members proposed and intervened in the Hearing of the European Parliament Human Rights Sub-Committee on “The fight against impunity and non-state actors’ accountability for human rights violations”, European Parliament, Brussels

January 30: PGA’s Secretary-General expert-briefing to Council of the EU (COJUR Working Group ICC) on “Supporting & Enhancing a Victim-Oriented Approach to International Criminal Justice” and intervention in NGOs’ briefing of same WG (chaired by Malta), Brussels, Belgium

February 13-14: PGA’s participation in the Chatham House rule seminar on “Canadian consideration of the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression” & Meeting of the PGA Canada Group and Friends of the UN Group, Parliament of Canada, Ottawa

February 15-16: PGA’s participation in the Preparatory Meeting and Side Events to the UN Ocean Conference, in support of SDG 14, United Nations, New York

February 16: First Biannual Meeting of the PGA UN Committee, Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, New York

February 26: PGA’s SG briefing for Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians on PGA’s best practices in the area of female empowerment/gender equality, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Working Meeting, Wilton Park, UK

March 9-10: Seminar entitled “Sharing Experiences and Stories among Parliamentarians to Advance Equality and Non-Discrimination on the basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in Latin America and the Caribbean”, Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, San José

March 27-28: Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Ratification and Implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC), Sierra Leone, Freetown

April 6-7: Mission of the ICC President to meet with PGA Malaysia National Group and with the Government and Parliament of Malaysia to promote Universality of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

April 12-14: PGA Delegation to “Global Parliamentarians: The role of the legislative branch in building national mechanisms for atrocity prevention” (organized by Stanley Found., Auschwitz Institute & others), Hague Institute for Global Justice, The Hague, Netherlands

April 20: Seminar on Cooperation with the ICC for parliamentarians, judges and prosecutors, Parliament of Argentina, Buenos Aires, Argentina

May 9-11: PGA participates in the “Global Convening on Strategies towards Decriminalisation of Homosexuality” organized by the Open Society Foundations in partnership with Positive Vibes Trust, Human Dignity Trust, and Southern African Litigation Center in Swakopmund, Namibia

May 15: Key Stakeholders’ Round-Table Discussion on democratic representation of Members of Parliaments at the United Nations, Parliament of The Netherlands, The Hague

May 15-16: PGA Latin America Regional Workshop to Promote Implementation of BWC in Chile & Parliamentary Mission to promote national mechanisms on Cooperation with the ICC and implementation of Kampala Amendments, Parliament of Chile, Santiago

May 30-31: PGA participates in the “Regional Parliamentarians Forum – Follow up to the United Nations High Level Political Declaration on Ending AIDS” organized by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), through its Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP), and UNDP, in Kingston, Jamaica

June 5: The Role of Parliamentarians in Protecting the Oceans and Implementing SDG 14, (Side Event to the first UN Oceans Conference), United Nations, New York

June 5: PGA Stakeholders Meeting on BWC, New York

June 15: Parliamentary workshop of information and sensitization on the death penalty, Yaoundé (Cameroon) (in partnership with ECPM)

July 05: Legislative Forum “Sharing Experiences and Best Practices in Latin America and the Caribbean to Prevent and End Child Marriage and Early Unions”, in collaboration with the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador, UN Women and UNICEF, San Salvador

July 13-14: Field Mission to Haiti to Promote Ratification of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and Rome Statute of the ICC, Port au Prince, Haiti

July 25: Parliamentary Roundtable and Consultations on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Malaysia and in Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

July 27-28: Participation by PGA in UNODA Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention in the Pacific Islands, Nadi, Fiji

September 28: Strategic Meeting on support of victims’ rights with the participation of the ICC Trust Fund for Victims, Foundations and the Private Sector, European Parliament, Brussels

October 02-05: Strategic Meeting on the Process of Domestic Implementation and Ratification of the Rome Statute, and Bilateral Meetings With Stakeholders of PGA’s Secretary General, Rada of Ukraine, Kiev

October 10: Publication of a Parliamentary Factsheet on the Disproportionate Effect of the Death Penalty on the Poor to mark the 15th World Days against the Death Penalty, this year focused on Poverty and the Death Penalty

October 27: Roundtable Discussion on Effective Anti-Discrimination Measures based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in South America, Paramaribo, Suriname

October 30-31: Sub-regional Parliamentary Seminar on International Justice: a Fundamental Tool for Sustainable Development in Peaceful and Inclusive Societies, Parliament of Uruguay, Montevideo

October 31 - November 02: Participation by PGA in the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction, Ottawa, Canada

November 06: Parliamentary Roundtable on the Rule of Law, with a special focus on the Abolition of the Death Penalty, Senate of Jordan, Amman

November 16-19: PGA SOGI Campaign participates in ILGA’s Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, Guatemala

November 27-28: PGA’s 39th Annual Forum on the Prevention of Violent Extremism and Mass Atrocities, Palazzo Isimbardi, Milan, Italy

2017 IN REVIEW

November 29: Moving Away from Capital Punishment in Asia: (side-event to PGA's 39th Annual Forum), Milan, Italy

December 01-08: Participation by PGA Member Associate Government Minister Hon. Taefu Lemi Taefu MP (Samoa) and Director of PGA Peace & Democracy Program in BWC Side Event Sponsored by the United States and Meeting of States Parties (MSP) of the Biological Weapons Convention - UN/ Geneva/Switzerland

December 04-13: PGA side-event on the occasion of the 16th Session of the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC – The role and voice of victims in support of the fight against impunity for core crimes under International Law, United Nations, New York
July 11: Regional Seminar on Equality and Non-Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) for Caribbean Parliamentarians & Launch of PGA's Parliamentary Handbook on Human Rights and SOGI, Parliament of Uruguay, Montevideo

For a list of upcoming PGA events, please visit:
www.pgaction.org/news/activity-calendars/2018.html



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