



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

# 2019

# ANNUAL REPORT

MOBILIZING LEGISLATORS  
AS CHAMPIONS FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS,  
DEMOCRACY, AND PEACE



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## 01 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**“PGA EXPANDED ITS ROLE AS THE “GO-TO” PARLIAMENTARY PARTNER OF THE GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY”**

Dear Friends of PGA,

For Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) – the largest non-governmental, multi-party international network of individual legislators with approximately 1,300 members in 136 parliaments around the world committed to human rights and the Rule of Law, democracy, human security, inclusion, and gender equality – the year 2019 was defined by many achievements.

This was the first year of PGA's new, 3-year strategic plan (2019-2021) under the theme of **“Mobilizing Legislators as Champions for Human Rights, Democracy, and Peace”** and resulted in significant progress in the creation of a more equitable, safe, and democratic world.

PGA expanded its role as the “go-to” parliamentary partner of the global human rights community with the launch of the core parliamentary [“Campaign for Democratic Renewal and Human Rights”](#).

Democratic principles worldwide are under attack and, while threats to democracy are not new, contemporary challenges have put Parliamentarians themselves on the front-lines. Opposition members and advocates for democratic norms, including human rights and gender justice, are increasingly targeted for repression, political reprisal, abusive prosecutions, and personal victimization.

At-risk classes, including women and girls, indigenous populations, religious minorities and LGBTI persons are often disproportionately affected. This Campaign therefore supports and empowers parliamentarians to resist these attacks on democracy, shape national agendas, counter executive incursions, and work with civil society to preserve civic and political space.

PGA's success is due in large part to the commitment of our members and their ownership of the organization's strategic priorities. This essential feature is maintained and safeguarded by the democratic governance and working methods of PGA. Our global network of parliamentarians acting in their individual capacity is supported by PGA National Groups in parliaments. National Group chairs form the International Council, which then elects members of the Executive Committee. Lastly, all strategic decisions of the organization are made by the Executive Committee, which focuses on the results-oriented monitoring of, and action on, PGA's Programmes and Campaigns and is advised by the International Council.

The promotion of gender equality remains an important theme across the organization: in our governance, structure, administration and in all Programmes and Campaigns. Since its inception, PGA has played a pivotal role in the global movement for gender equality. In the organization's governance structure, the PGA Executive Committee maintains a 40:60 gender ratio and National Groups must have gender balance in addition to cross-party representation.

Thank you to all of our friends for your continued support of PGA's mission to contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world. With your help, we have achieved significant results championing human rights around the world across all of our campaigns. I invite you to continue learning about our significant achievements in the following 2019 Annual Report.

On behalf of PGA, I am grateful to both our invaluable network of parliamentarians and our steadfast partners, and look forward to continued success in 2020!

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**Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP, Sweden**



**MS. MARGARETA  
CEDERFELT, MP,  
SWEDEN**

# 2019 EVENTS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS

**FEB 14** First Biannual Meeting of the PGA UN Advisory Committee  
Permanent Mission of Lichtenstein to the United Nations, New York, NY, USA

**FEB 18-20** PGA Member participation in the Equality & Justice Forum for Commonwealth Parliamentarians 2019  
Cape Town, South Africa

**FEB 27-  
MAR 1** Participation in the World Congress against the Death Penalty, including a Side-Event on "Parliamentarians as Abolitionist Champions"  
Brussels, Belgium

**MAR 20** Promoting Equality and Inclusion for LGBTI Persons in the Pacific, side event to the ILGA World Conference  
Parliament of New Zealand, Wellington

**MAR 25-26** PGA delegation to Cape Verde to plan 2019 Annual Forum  
Praia, Cape Verde

**APR 29-30** Regional Central America & Caribbean Workshop on Promoting Universality and National Implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540  
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

**MAY 6-7** Sub-regional Latin America Working Group and Parliamentary Seminar: International Justice, a fundamental tool to strengthen the Rule of Law, the protection of human rights and democratic governance  
Parliament of Uruguay, Montevideo

**MAY 16-17** Regional Africa Workshop on Promoting the Role of Women Parliamentarians in Africa in Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction  
National Assembly of The Gambia, Banjul

**MAY 31** Pacific Islands Roundtables on the Ratification and Implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)  
Port Vila, Vanuatu

**JUL 2** Delegation of Women Leaders from Pakistan to PGA Headquarters  
New York, NY, USA

**JUL 3-4** Regional Working Group on the Fight against Impunity in Africa: Developing Accountability Mechanisms and the Effective Implementation of the Rome Statute of the ICC  
Parliament of The Gambia, Banjul

**JUL 12** Side event to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF): The Role of Parliamentarians in empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality – Sustainable Development Goal 16  
in collaboration with UN LGBT Core Group, Luxembourg House, New York, NY, USA


**JUL 15** PGA Roundtable discussion on the importance of the CTA, the PSMA and the C188 in the framework of the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development  
in collaboration with Pew Charitable Trusts, New York, NY, USA

**JUL 15** Stakeholders meeting on PGA's Global Parliamentary Campaign to Promote Ratification and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)  
PGA Headquarters, New York, NY, USA

**JUL 17** Side event to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019: The crucial role of international criminal justice in achieving SDG16  
co-organized with The Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, New York, NY USA

**JUL 24-26** Global Convening on the Decriminalization of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity  
co-organized with the Open Society Foundations, the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality, the Southern African Litigation Centre, and the Human Dignity Trust, Bridgetown, Barbados

**AUG 16** Delegation from Legislative Council of Hong Kong to PGA Headquarters  
New York, NY, USA

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- AUG 27** Delegation from the European Parliament to PGA Headquarters  
New York, NY, USA
- AUG 28-30** PGA Parliamentary participation in Project Planning Workshop to discuss social inclusion and human rights for sexual and gender minorities in Sub-Saharan Africa  
hosted by the United Nations Development Program, Johannesburg, South Africa
- SEP 21** PGA Parliamentary Delegation to, and Presentation at, Regional Pacific Islands Workshop Promoting Universality of Biological Weapons Convention  
Parliament of New Zealand
- SEP 26-27** Regional CARICOM/Central America Workshop on Promoting Role of Women Parliamentarians in Implementation of UN PoA on SALW  
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
- OCT 2** PGA European Parliament Group meeting and briefing on the EU role in the fight against impunity  
European Parliament, Brussels
- OCT 14-15** BWC/UNSCR 1540 Workshop/Field Mission  
Kingstown, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines
- OCT 15-16** Pacific Regional Parliamentary Youth Dialogue  
co-organized with the Royal Commonwealth Society (on behalf of the Equality & Justice Alliance), the Pacific Youth Council and the Samoa National Youth Council, Apia, Samoa
- OCT 21** PGA delegation to the International Maritime Organization Conference on International Fishing Vessel Safety  
Torremolinos, Spain
- NOV 21-22** PGA's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Forum on the Role of Parliamentarians in the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 16 and 14: Promoting democratic renewal and inclusion, safeguarding human rights, and protecting the oceans, and First International Parliamentary Oceans Day  
Parliament of Cape Verde, Praia
- NOV 24** Field Mission/Roundtable to support the ICC ratification and implementation process  
Kyiv, Ukraine
- DEC 3-6** PGA Delegation to Annual Meeting of States Parties (MSP) to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)  
United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
- DEC 4** PGA Side-Event to the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the ICC, "Pursuing Universality of the Rome Statute in an Evolving International Context: Persistent Challenges, New Dimensions, and Adaptive Strategies"  
The Hague
- DEC 11** PGA co-sponsors "ICJ Genocide Case: The Rohingya Right of Reply" with No Peace Without Justice and other international NGOs  
co-organized with No Peace Without Justice and other international NGOs, The Hague
- DEC 12** PGA Members' participation in meeting of parliamentarians from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the abolition of the death penalty  
Parliament of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kinshasa

# ABOUT US

## VISION

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

## MISSION

PGA, a non-governmental, multi-party, international network of legislators acting in their individual capacity, informs and mobilizes parliamentarians in all regions of the world to advocate for human rights and the Rule of Law, democracy, human security, inclusion and gender equality.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Members of Parliament (MPs) have a key role to play in national and global efforts to promote and protect human rights, democracy and peace: in their capacity as lawmakers, in their Government-oversight functions, and as democratically-elected representatives of the people who play important leadership roles in their communities.

By using a peer-to-peer methodology and country-specific strategies, the PGA Secretariat and leading members work together to educate, sensitize, build the technical capacity and strengthen the political will of parliamentarians in order to take ownership, concrete initiatives and legislative actions to achieve results on PGA's campaign objectives. PGA works with individual parliamentarians in their national contexts and parliaments, and then leverages that capacity with international networking to support democracy, human rights and peace.

PGA undertakes activities, such as convening national and regional parliamentary workshops and providing follow-up technical assistance to MPs, resulting in the targeted MPs having the capacity, knowledge and awareness of a Campaign issue, which in turn leads to targeted MPs having the political will to take action. PGA helps create an environment conducive to positive changes, especially through activities that facilitate connections between civil society and parliamentarians, as well as building bridges between domestic and international policy-makers and stakeholders.

While promoting the realization of this human rights-centred concept of Rule of Law through its vision, mission statement and strategic plan, parliamentarians engaged by PGA are empowered to better perform their constitutional prerogatives as lawmakers, policy-makers and defenders of democratic institutions.



**MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MPS)  
HAVE A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN  
NATIONAL AND GLOBAL EFFORTS  
TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN  
RIGHTS**

# OUR PROGRAMMES AND CAMPAIGNS



## CORE CAMPAIGN ON DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

PGA launched the DRHR campaign in 2018 as part of its core mandate to contribute to the creation of a “rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world”.

## INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS

The ILHR Programme seeks to support and promote the prevention of serious human rights violations, including international crimes, and accountability of perpetrators when they do occur.



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

This campaign aims to promote a universal culture of upholding the Rule of Law, human rights and human dignity, by contributing to put an end to impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.



## CAMPAIGN FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY (ADP)

The movement towards the abolition of the death penalty (capital punishment) is today at a critical moment. Each year, new States definitely abolish capital punishment while Retentionist States are becoming further isolated in their choice to retain the death penalty.



## CAMPAIGN FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG14

The Oceans Campaign seeks to end impunity for crimes committed on the world’s oceans – and their related human rights violations – through more transparency in the seafood industry. The Campaign currently works in several areas, including illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing and sustainable small-scale fisheries (SSF).

## GENDER, EQUALITY & INCLUSION

The GEI programme seeks the full protection and active promotion of the human rights of those most vulnerable, including girls and women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons.



## CAMPAIGN ON ENDING CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE (CEFM)

The goal of this campaign is to empower parliamentarians to become leaders in the defense and promotion of the human rights of girls and women.



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

This campaign mobilizes parliamentarians as human rights champions, taking action to guarantee that every individual has equal value, lives with dignity and is able to achieve their highest potential free from all forms of violence and discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

## INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY

The IPS Programme focuses on marshalling global parliamentary support for improved regulation of the international arms trade, in particular where its inadequacies play a demonstrated role in destabilizing countries, causing or fuelling conflict and/or delay the emergence of countries from conflict.



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

The illicit trade in SALW continues to pose a serious threat to peace, security, stability and sustainable development in many parts of the world.



## CAMPAIGN FOR UNIVERSALITY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC) & IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)

In the wake of the evolution of more sophisticated/complex terrorism threats, a renewed interest in ensuring greater global participation and implementation of the BWC has rapidly emerged.

## 05 — MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

PGA membership is open to individual, sitting members of Parliament who are committed to PGA's vision and values. Individual members actively participate in fulfilling the organization's vision, mission, and campaign objectives and are empowered as agents of change. Members gain increased capacity and benefit from an enhanced understanding of the issues through access to the skills and expertise of the Secretariat and from collaborating with fellow PGA members.

In order to qualify for PGA membership, the country's Parliament must adhere to 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 question the Executive

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:**

**1,214**

**Male:**

**805**

**Female:**

**409**

**NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTS:**

**133**

**NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS:**

**124**

**REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS:**

**5**

**OBSERVER STATUS PARLIAMENTS:**

**4**



**MS. MARGARETA  
CEDERFELT,  
MP (SWEDEN)**

**- WHY I JOINED PGA\***

**▶ PLAY AUDIO**

*\*The Oak Foundation supported PGA's access to Memria, a platform to capture and share feedback and experiences through audio and text, at a scale otherwise impossible to manage manually. Our Board members piloted the use of this new technology in 2019 to share their stories and experience with PGA.*

## 06 — MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY

### AFRICA (432 MEMBERS, 38 COUNTRIES)

Angola	2	Senegal	13
Benin	2	Seychelles	1
Botswana	1	Sierra Leone	12
<b>Burkina Faso*</b>	<b>15</b>	Somalia	9
Cameroon	7	South Africa	6
<b>Cape Verde*</b>	<b>26</b>	South Sudan	3
<b>Central African Republic*</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Tanzania</b>	<b>15</b>
Chad	5	Togo	1
Comoros	2	<b>Uganda</b>	<b>42</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	9	Zambia	2
<b>DR Congo*</b>	<b>72</b>	Zimbabwe	19
Eswatini	1		
Gabon	3		
Gambia	10		
Ghana	27		
Guinea	3		
Guinea Bissau	28		
Kenya	43		
Liberia	5		
Madagascar	2		
Malawi	5		
Mali	4		
<b>Mozambique</b>	<b>28</b>		
<b>Namibia</b>	<b>7</b>		
Niger	4		
Nigeria	11		
São Tomé and Príncipe	3		

### MIDDLE EAST & THE MEDITERRANEAN (50 MEMBERS, 9 COUNTRIES)

Algeria	1
<b>Iraq*</b>	<b>18</b>
Jordan	6
Lebanon	1
Morocco	8
Oman	1
Tunisia	7
Turkey	1
Yemen	7



**AMERICAS (352 MEMBERS, 30 COUNTRIES)**

Antigua & Barbuda	3
<b>Argentina*</b>	<b>37</b>
Barbados	3
Belize	11
Bolivia	6
Brazil	13
<b>Canada*</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Chile*</b>	<b>11</b>
Colombia	7
Costa Rica	5
<b>Dominican Republic*</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Ecuador*</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>El Salvador*</b>	<b>26</b>
Grenada	3
Guatemala	3
Guyana	3
Haiti	13
<b>Honduras*</b>	<b>21</b>
Jamaica	3
Mexico	2
Panama	3
Paraguay	15
Peru	5
Saint Lucia	3
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	1
<b>Suriname*</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago*</b>	<b>16</b>
United States	9
<b>Uruguay*</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Venezuela*</b>	<b>19</b>

**ASIA (147 MEMBERS, 13 COUNTRIES)**

Afghanistan	6
Bangladesh	12
Cambodia	1
Hong Kong	2
<b>India*</b>	<b>18</b>
Indonesia	5
Japan	11
<b>Malaysia*</b>	<b>27</b>
Nepal	6
<b>Pakistan*</b>	<b>17</b>
Philippines	6
Singapore	1
<b>Sri Lanka*</b>	<b>35</b>

**THE PACIFIC (56 MEMBERS, 11 COUNTRIES)**

<b>Australia*</b>	<b>14</b>
Fiji	4
Kiribati	2
Micronesia (Federated States of)	2
<b>New Zealand*</b>	<b>12</b>
Papua New Guinea	1
Samoa	8
Solomon Islands	2
Tonga	2
Tuvalu	5
Vanuatu	4

**EUROPE (146 MEMBERS, 23 COUNTRIES)**

<b>Albania*</b>	<b>14</b>
Austria	2
Azerbaijan	1
Belgium	4
<b>Denmark*</b>	<b>11</b>
Finland	5
Georgia	1
Ireland	8
<b>Italy*</b>	<b>9</b>
Kosovo	1
Lithuania	1
Montserrat	1
Netherlands	5
North Macedonia	2
Norway	7
Poland	2
Portugal	5
Serbia	2
Slovenia	2
<b>Sweden*</b>	<b>13</b>
Switzerland	4
<b>Ukraine*</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	<b>28</b>

**REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS (17 MEMBERS, 5 REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS)**

<b>European Parliament*</b>	<b>15</b>
ECOWAS Parliament	**
Pan-African Parliament	**
PARLACEN	1
PARLATINO	1

**OBSERVER COUNTRIES (5 MEMBERS, 4 OBSERVER COUNTRIES)**

Aruba	1
Cook Islands	1
Palestine	1
Sudan	2

\* denotes PGA National Group  
 \*\* reflected in national lists

# MEMBERSHIP WORLDWIDE MAP

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS

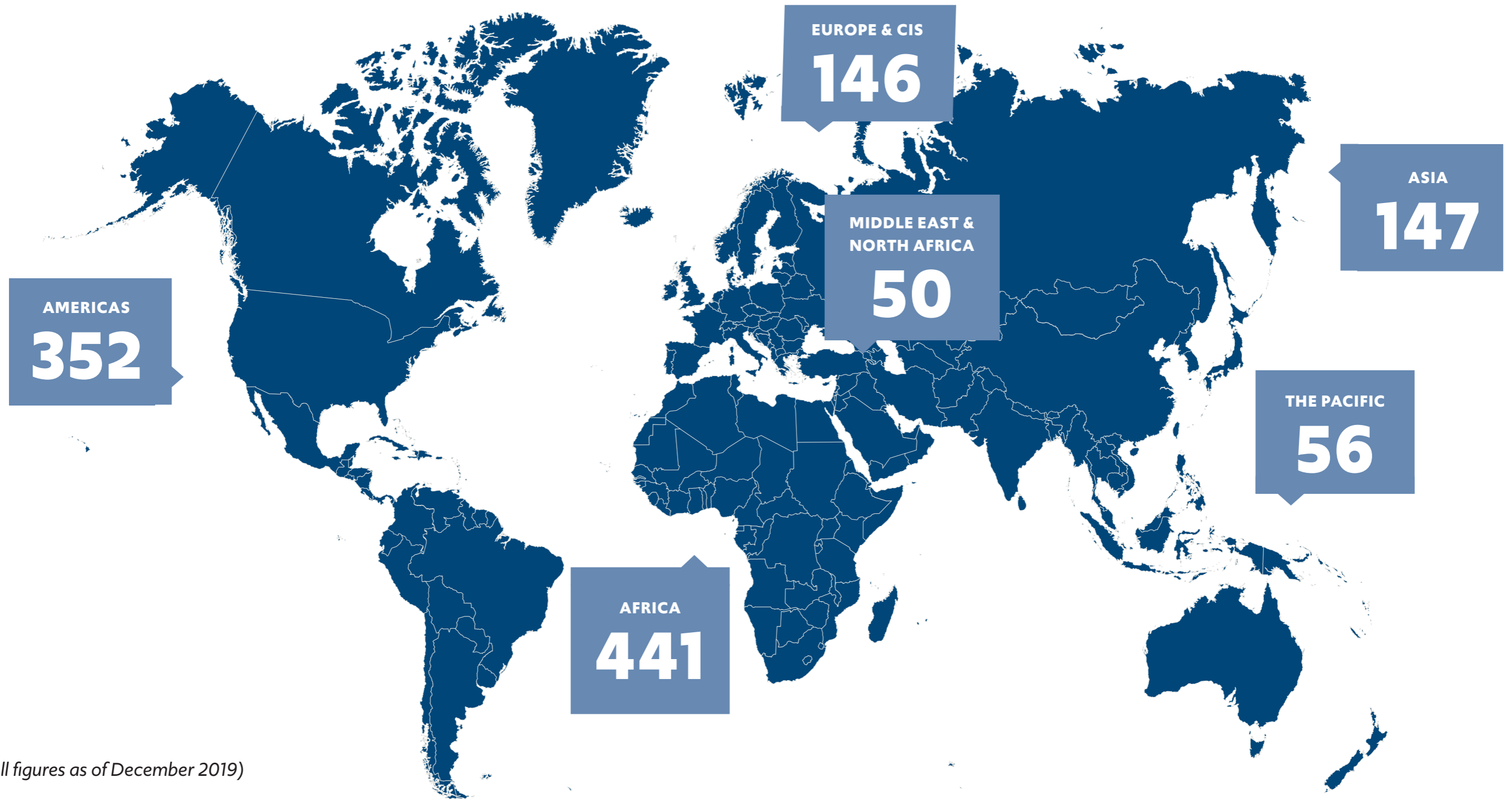
OBSERVER COUNTRIES

**17****5**

THE FIVE REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS ARE:

*ECOWAS Parliament, European Parliament, PARLACEN, Parlatino, Pan-African Parliament*

THE SIX OBSERVER STATUS PARLIAMENTS ARE:

*Aruba [overseas territory of The Netherlands], Cook Islands [independent State in free association with New Zealand], Palestine, Sudan [State not yet fulfilling PGA's requirements concerning a democratic system]**(All figures as of December 2019)*

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP**  
Sweden  
President



**Dip. Victor Orlando Bisonó**  
Dominican Republic  
Chair of International Council



**Ms. Petra Bayr, MP**  
Austria  
Treasurer



**Dip. Carla Pitiot**  
Argentina



**Sen. Valerie Woods**  
Belize



**Dip. Tucapel Jiménez Fuentes**  
Chile



**Mr. Ali Ehsassi, MP**  
Canada



**Dep. Emilie Béatrice Epaye**  
Central African Republic



**Dip. Jorge Calix**  
Honduras



**Dep. Dr. Suzi Barbosa**  
Guinea-Bissau



**Hon. Kula Segaran, MP**  
Malaysia



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



**Dep. António Niquice**  
Mozambique



**Dr. Hryhoriy Nemyria, MP**  
Ukraine



**Dep. Levy Nazaré**  
São Tomé and Príncipe



# INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Ms. Albana Vokshi, MP, Albania

Dip. Cornelia Schmidt Liermann, Argentina

Ms. Maria Vamvakinou, MP, Australia

Dep. Reine Benao Sakande, Burkina Faso

Dep. José Manuel Sanches Tavares, Cape Verde

Dip. Magda Rodríguez, Dominican Republic

Dip. María Soledad Buendía Herdoiza, Ecuador

Dip. Mario Tenorio, El Salvador

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

Hon. Supriya Sadanand Sule, MP, India

Hon. Faig Al Sheikh Ali, MP, Iraq

Ms. Lia Quartapelle, MP, Italy

Hon. Millie Odhiambo, MP, Kenya

Dep. Ana Rita Sithole, Mozambique

Hon. Evelyn Nawases-Taeyele, MP, Namibia

Mr. Adrian Rurawhe, MP, New Zealand

Hon. Leonard Ramatlakane, MP, South Africa

Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala, MP, Sri Lanka

Hon. Patrick Kensenhuis, MP, Suriname

Hon. Jasson Rweikiza, MP, Tanzania

Sen. Wade Mark, Trinidad and Tobago

Hon. Jacob Oboth-Oboth, MP, Uganda

Mr. Mark Pritchard, MP, United Kingdom

Dip. Macarena Gelman, Uruguay

Dip. Armando Armas, Venezuela

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# PGA SECRETARIAT

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### **Mr. Rory Sturdy**

Communications

## UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PGA's United Nations (UN) Advisory Committee, composed of Ambassadors from PGA partner states and leaders of the UN system, advises on the role of parliamentarians in supporting and implementing the UN agenda at the national level, considering in particular the UN Agenda 2030, and opportunities for cooperation with the UN and Member States for the effective implementation of PGA's Strategic Plan.

### CHAIR

**H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein

### UNITED NATIONS AMBASSADORS

**H.E. Mr. Jan Kickert**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Austria

**H.E. Mr. Juan Carlos Mendoza García**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica

**H.E. Mr. Ivan Šimonović**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Croatia

**H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Denmark

**H.E. Ms. Minna-Liina Lind**

Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Estonia

**H.E. Mr. 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. Cho Tae-yul**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea

**H.E. Mr. Christian Braun**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Luxembourg

**H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Sweden

**H.E. Mr. Jurg Lauber**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Switzerland

**H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Yelchenko**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Ukraine

**H.E. Ms. Karen Pierce**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom

## UN SECRETARIAT AND AGENCIES

**H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson**

UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

**Mr. Adama Dieng**

UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide

**Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu**

Under-Secretary-General; UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

## DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Development Advisory Committee (DAC) is a non-governing body designed to help PGA by providing strategic input, enhancing networking and goodwill, increasing visibility, and augmenting fundraising. DAC members are thought-leaders who share their insights and access to resources with PGA's staff and Board. DAC members represent PGA's work to their networks, emphasizing the urgent need to support parliamentary advocacy for the creation of a rules-based international order.

### CHAIR

**Ms. Minou Tavárez Mirabal**

Dominican Republic (former President of PGA)

### MEMBERS

**Ambassador Martin Sajdik**

Austria (former Chair of UN ECOSOC)

**Judge Song Sang-Hyun**

Republic of Korea (former President of the ICC)

**Dr. Deborah Ruiz Verduzco**

Mexico

**Mr. Coşkun Çörüz**

The Netherlands (former Board Member of PGA)

**Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai**

Sierra Leone (former Board Member of PGA)

**Ambassador Stephen J. Rapp**

United States (former U.S. Ambassador for Global Criminal Justice)

**Mr. Tadashi Inuzuka**

Japan (former Board Member of PGA)

## CORE CAMPAIGN

# DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Increasing consensus holds that democracy is in decline globally. Elements of democratic backsliding include progressive erosion of democratic principles (such as separation of powers, checks and balances, independence of the judiciary and equality before the law); rising perpetuation of disinformation; incremental dismantling of protections for press freedoms and weaponization of the media, including gendered attacks; and repression of vulnerable populations and minorities, such as opposition members, journalists, human rights defenders and legal professionals.

As human rights abuses amass, democratic practices are abandoned, and justice retreats, parliamentarians are on the frontlines. MPs have the mandate and responsibility to stand against these dangerous trends. However, parliamentarians themselves are increasingly at risk in contexts of democratic backsliding. The recent surge of assaults on democracy and civic space often entails attacks on MPs' physical integrity and psychological wellbeing.

Inaugurated by PGA's Executive Board in November 2018, PGA's Core Campaign for Democratic Renewal and Human Rights aims to enlist, empower, and equip parliamentarians as democracy defenders. This furthers PGA's vision to contribute to the creation of a *"rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world."*



**AS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES  
AMASS, DEMOCRATIC  
PRACTICES ARE ABANDONED,  
AND JUSTICE RETREATS,  
PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE ON  
THE FRONTLINES.**

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In the campaign's first year, [PGA mobilized its global membership](#) to give greater visibility and support to at-risk parliamentarians and amplify the voices of the vulnerable. For example, PGA rallied in support of Philippines Senator and PGA member Leila de Lima since her non-bailable detainment in February 2017 – days after receiving international acclaim for her campaign against the alleged extrajudicial killings linked to President Rodrigo Duterte's "drug war." In the intervening years, PGA members have repeatedly raised the visibility of Sen. de Lima's case through [parliamentary statements](#), [high-level meetings](#), and [resolutions](#).

November 19 marked the 1,000th day of Sen. de Lima's unlawful incarceration. The very next day, at the [PGA Annual Forum in Praia, Cape Verde](#), 38 PGA members from 22 parliaments joined a petition to #FreeLeilaNow, calling for Senator de Lima's immediate release. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee [passed a resolution](#) sponsored by PGA Member U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) with broad bipartisan support, calling on the government of The Philippines to release Sen. de Lima and drop criminal charges against the founder of a news website critical of the administration of President Duterte ([similar legislation](#) has also passed the U.S. House of Representatives). The [Tom Lantos Commission on Human Rights \(TLHRC\)](#) of the U.S. House of Representatives, chaired by [PGA Member Congressman Jim McGovern](#), also cohosted a hearing.

PGA's global network and the PGA Venezuela National Group have [issued statements](#) demanding an end to the political persecution of parliamentary opposition members by the Maduro regime.

In response to PGA's advocacy around a study about acts of sexism, abuse, and violence against women in parliaments in Europe, Dip. Carla Pitiot, PGA board member from Argentina, was inspired to mobilize her parliamentary colleagues for a Declaration of Interest giving visibility to sexism, harassment, and violence against women in all Parliaments. This Declaration became a global rallying cry, #NotInMyParliament. In Ecuador, Asambleísta Soledad Buendía, Chair of the PGA Ecuador National Group – who has documented violations to her fundamental rights of physical and psychological integrity because of her political positions – called upon authorities to respect the human rights of all legislators.



In Brazil, PGA condemned the forced exile of its National Group Chair, LGBTI Rights activist Dip. Jean Wyllys. PGA helped Dip. Wyllys liaise with third parties to enhance the protection of his human rights as an elected parliamentarian.

With PGA's support, PGA members across European Party Groups also introduced a pivotal resolution condemning the gross human rights violations perpetrated in Cameroon, including politically-motivated arrests of civil society dissidents and opposition members, such as former presidential candidate and eminent jurist Prof. Maurice Kamto.

PGA's active global membership base has also come together in support of democratic transitions. On April 11, amid reports that President Omar al-Bashir's repressive and brutal 30-year regime in Sudan was brought to an end and all political prisoners released in Khartoum, PGA members from around the world issued a statement welcoming his stepping-down and house-arrest.

PGA welcomed positive strides towards democracy taken in The Maldives since last year's elections, which led to the restoration of liberty of former PGA member and Democracy Defender Award recipient and current Minister of Human Resources, Hon. Ahmed Mahloof. PGA supports the continued consolidation of democratic practices in The Maldives, led by the new Convenor for the Democratic Renewal & Human Rights Campaign, Hon. Rozaina Adam, MP.

In situations of potential democratic crisis, such as Chile and Ecuador, PGA members have provided vital on-the-ground insights.

PGA also supported its first two members from the Hong Kong Legislative Council, Hon. Dennis Kwok and Hon. Alvin Yeung, by helping bring further attention to the peaceful silent marches of legal professionals they continue to organize in support of an independent judiciary, an end to political prosecutions, and restitution of the rule of law. PGA's global membership mobilized, issuing a formal statement demanding that the Hong Kong government respect its obligations under domestic and international law to respect democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. At the 41st Annual Forum, Hon. Kwok sent a personal message to the more than 100 MPs in attendance, inviting them to #StandwithHongKong.

Finally, PGA has entered into new partnerships in support of the campaign. For the week of the International Day of Democracy, from 15 to 22 September, PGA shared 16 videos of parliamentary democracy defenders in partnership with the Democracy Decay & Renewal project, which received almost 1000 views on Twitter alone. PGA has also joined forces with the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights (RWCHR), an international consortium of parliamentarians, scholars, jurists, human rights defenders, NGOs, and students united in the pursuit of justice.



HON. DENNIS KWOK,  
HONG KONG  
LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER

 **PLAY VIDEO**

## GENDER, EQUALITY, & INCLUSION PROGRAMME

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# CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD, EARLY, AND FORCED MARRIAGE

PGA's CEFM Campaign seeks to empower parliamentarians to become leaders in the defense and promotion of the human rights of girls and women. PGA members have contributed to reforms in Civil and Family Codes raising the minimum age of marriage for boys and girls to 18 and repealing the exceptions that allowed marriage under this age in Costa Rica, [El Salvador](#), Guatemala, Honduras, [Malawi](#), and Trinidad and Tobago.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

On the occasion of the [International Day of the Girl](#) on October 11, MPs from Australia, Austria, Dominican Republic, Honduras, New Zealand, Pakistan, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sweden, The Gambia, and United Kingdom shared what "Raising Unscripted and Unstoppable Girls" meant to them. The purpose was to enhance visibility of parliamentarians' role as leaders and lawmakers through PGA's social media campaign #MPs4GirlsRights.

Additionally, on October 22, Ms. Petra Bayr (MP, Austria) posed a series of parliamentary questions to her government inquiring about programs that seek to protect the rights of girls in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women and Girls.

To mark this year's [16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence](#), PGA members were encouraged to organize an activity in their constituencies, pose parliamentary questions, and publish opinion pieces. Dip. Carla Pitiot from Argentina [wrote](#) about the importance of ratifying ILO Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment at work.



**"Raising an unscripted and unstoppable girl has been shrouded in fear for far too long. These tiny shoulders have carried the burden of honor and shame for centuries. This fear has led agencies to carefully prescribe sidekick roles to women when we know they are nothing short of super hero material. I say we break these shackles and let girls speak their mind and dream big."**

– Hon. Naveed Qamar, MP (Pakistan)

## GENDER, EQUALITY, & INCLUSION PROGRAMME

# 11 CAMPAIGN AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

The SOGI Campaign seeks to mobilize parliamentarians as human rights champions, taking action to guarantee that every individual has equal value, lives with dignity, and is able to achieve their highest potential free from all forms of violence and discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.

Since its inception in 2013, PGA has positioned itself as the parliamentary partner of LGBTI civil society organizations around the world, facilitating collaboration and encouraging its member-parliamentarians to support/champion LGBTI-affirming legislative reforms – including decriminalization of consensual same-sex conduct – in [Angola](#), [Bolivia](#), [Chile](#), [El Salvador](#), [Mozambique](#), [Nepal](#), [Pakistan](#), [Seychelles](#), and [Uruguay](#).



SEN. VALERIE WOODS  
(BELIZE)

 PLAY AUDIO

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA co-organized an event on March 20 in collaboration with the Parliament of New Zealand entitled “[Promoting Equality and Inclusion for LGBTI Persons in the Pacific](#).” The event screened the documentary *Leitis in Waiting*, which tells the story of a group of transgender women fighting discrimination in Tonga, among them activist Joleen Mataele, who also spoke at the event. Four New Zealand MPs, including the Second Assistant Speaker of the House of Representatives, were in attendance, as well as the Speaker of the Parliament of Tonga – all PGA members.

As a result of the “[Pacific Youth and Parliamentarians Regional Dialogue](#)” co-organized by PGA, the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Pacific Youth Council, and the Samoa National Youth Council in Apia, Samoa on October 14-16, 9 Pacific MPs from Kiribati, Samoa, and Tuvalu, together with youth representatives, adopted an [Action Plan](#) to engage regularly and work together to reform discriminatory provisions against women, girls, and LGBTI people. This set of concrete national commitments provides a project roadmap for targeted

actions in the Commonwealth Pacific and their implementation over the course of PGA’s 3-year project “Promoting Access to Justice and Freedom from Violence for all in the Commonwealth” in 2019-2022.

After participating in his first PGA Board meeting in July and learning more about PGA’s SOGI Campaign, PGA member Hon. Levy Nazaré, MP, Deputy Speaker from São Tomé and Príncipe, [spoke](#) for equality of LGBTI people in a plenary session of his Parliament. This appears to be the first time SOGI issues have been raised in the country’s Parliament.

PGA and UNDP’s publication “*Advancing the Human Rights and Inclusion of LGBTI People: A Handbook for Parliamentarians*” was translated and made available in [Portuguese](#).

PGA partnered with the Open Society Foundations, Human Dignity Trust, Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality, Freedom to Marry Global and Southern Africa Litigation Centre to co-organize the “Global Convening on the Decriminalization of SOGI” in Barbados on July 22-26. Civil society representatives had an opportunity to engage with PGA member-parliamentarians from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Kenya, and Zimbabwe in an informal setting and exchange views on effective strategies to decriminalize same-sex conduct with a focus on legislative reform. PGA will have a prominent co-organizing role in the next Global Convening on this topic in 2021.

As part of PGA’s [41st Annual Forum](#) on “The Role of Parliamentarians in the implementation of SDGs 16 and 14: Promoting democratic renewal and inclusion, safeguarding human rights, and protecting the oceans,” held in Praia, Cape Verde, parliamentarians from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe and Zimbabwe shared best practices from their countries’ experiences to guarantee that every individual lives with dignity and is free from violence and discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.

The 53 parliamentarians from 37 countries participating in the forum agreed on the [Praia Plan of Action](#), which, for the first time ever, contains a commitment to advance the human rights and inclusion of LGBTI people in their countries.



**“Many people are suffering in São Tomé and Príncipe because society does not recognize them and blocks their fundamental rights, such as the right to work, and their human dignity. As a representative of the people, I also have to defend those who have a different sexual orientation or gender identity than me.”**

– Dep. Levy Nazaré, São Tomé and Príncipe



# 12 CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

The ADP Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty seeks to abolish or to restrict the use of the death penalty while addressing its discriminatory application against poor and marginalized groups. The goal of the Campaign is the creation of a robust, shared culture of legality and human rights, where the death penalty has no place and justice is not revenge. To this end, PGA promotes the modification of national legal systems, including constitutions, and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (OP2 ICCPR). The campaign also urges MPs to act to support the UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

“Democratic principles are fragile; we cannot take for granted that the safeguards on our rights will not be overturned in the future. The death penalty is a cruel and irremediable penalty that belongs to the past, and it is disheartening that some governments choose to turn their back on the progress made on the path to abolition. As parliamentarians, we should use our prerogatives to uphold human rights and ensure that the headway our society has made is not lost.” - Hon. Tucapel Jimenez, Member of the House of Deputies of Chile and member of PGA’s Executive Committee

“It is our responsibility as leaders and representatives of our respective peoples to hold fast to our values and implement criminal justice policies that fully respect the human rights of all.” - Ms. Julie Ward, PGA Member of the European Parliament (United Kingdom)

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2019, PGA members hailed several important positive developments towards abolition of the death penalty. In May, a determined and unwavering two-decade effort by PGA member and New Hampshire Representative Renny Cushing [culminated in New Hampshire becoming the 21st U.S. state to abolish the death penalty](#). PGA Members from Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia also [welcomed the news](#) that the State of Palestine [deposited on 18 March 2019 the instrument of accession](#) to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP2) and [congratulated](#) California Governor Gavin Newsom on his decision to impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

PGA members also made visible commitments towards abolition on both global and domestic stages. At the margins of the [7<sup>th</sup> World Congress against the Death Penalty](#), organized by partner organization [Ensemble contre la peine de mort \[Together against the death penalty\] \(ECPM\)](#), PGA and ECPM convened a session for 20 parliamentarians to freely discuss their experiences and challenges with abolition. During this session, the parliamentarians adopted a [declaration](#) summarizing their commitments to the abolition of the death

penalty, which was read during the closing ceremony by PGA members Hon. Dorcas Sibanda, Member of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, and Hon. Théophile Yombombé Madjitouloum, 3rd Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Chad.

Parliamentarians for  
Global Action (PGA)

commemorates

THE WORLD DAY  
AGAINST THE  
DEATH PENALTY



WATCH PRESENTATION

CREATED FOR THE 2019 WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY HIGHLIGHTED HOW PGA MEMBERS WORLDWIDE HAVE WORKED TO PROMOTE THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY AND THE INSTITUTION OF A FAIRER CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

In Cameroon, PGA member Dep. Marguerite Dissaké, Secretary of the Committee on Constitutional Laws, Human Rights and Liberties, Justice, Legislation, Regulation and Administration, officially launched a Network of Cameroonian Parliamentarians against the Death Penalty, despite a challenging political climate in Cameroon.

“Despite the challenges and threats, most of our countries have rejected the death penalty or are moving towards abolition and, for decades, have not carried out executions. All of this only makes us, leaders of the abolitionist fight, more committed.” Dep. Marguerite Dissaké, Cameroon

In 2019, PGA members worldwide stood firm against alarming backward steps in several countries, including the resumption of capital punishment for federal offenses in the United States. PGA members from every region worldwide [decided the decision](#), noting that the consequences of regression on the abolitionist path anywhere, especially when influential States revert in such a way, are felt beyond their borders and can imperil efforts by courageous activists against the death penalty across the globe. In response, PGA Member Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) introduced [legislation](#) in the U.S. Senate to prohibit the use of the death penalty for any purpose. Similar [legislation](#) was introduced by Rep. Ayana Pressley (D-MA) in the House of Representatives with co-sponsorship by PGA Member Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), Chair of the bipartisan Tom Lantos Commission for Human Rights.

PGA also continued to support efforts toward abolition in the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo (where PGA members have joined forces with the Network of Congolese Parliamentarians Against the Death Penalty) and Indonesia, where abolition efforts are linked to the *Reformasi* process.

## INTERNATIONAL LAW &amp; HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

## CAMPAIGN FOR THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Human rights and the rule of law cannot be respected while there is impunity for the most serious international crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression. The goal of the Campaign for the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is to end impunity for these most serious crimes and advance victims' access to justice by cultivating awareness and political will for the imperative to fight impunity.



DIP. JORGE CALIX,  
HONDURAS  
(in Spanish)



Since the campaign's commencement in 1989, PGA has contributed directly to 78 of the 125 State ratifications of the Rome Statute, as well as to the decision-making and drafting processes that led to the adoption of legislative packages on domestic implementation in 36 countries. In 2019, PGA continued to strive toward the goals of universal ratification and effective implementation, with some notable successes, while also working to combat anti-ICC backlash and enhance the Court's functioning.



DIP. TUCAPEL  
JIMENEZ, CHILE  
(in Spanish)



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout the year, with PGA's assistance, several states made significant progress towards implementation legislation and cooperation agreements, including the Central African Republic, Ecuador, The Gambia, and Paraguay. Furthermore, in the crucial struggle to expand the jurisdiction of the Rome Statute system through universalization of the treaty, [Kiribati](#) acceded to the Rome Statute while [Ecuador](#) and [Paraguay](#) ratified the Kampala Amendments on the Crime of Aggression, as a direct result of years of PGA advocacy.



These developments typified PGA's sustained and focused approach, which this year included activities on five continents where parliamentarians took critical steps to realize the goals of ratification, implementation legislation, and cooperation agreements under the Rome Statute system, committing themselves and their countries to both shared and concrete country-specific goals.



REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY IN AFRICA: DEVELOPING ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS AND THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STATUTE OF THE ICC, PARLIAMENT OF THE GAMBIA, BANJUL, MAY 16-17, 2019.

Addressing the National Assembly of Ecuador, Asambleísta Soledad Buendía, Member of the Committee on Sovereignty, Integration, International Relations, and Integral Security and Chair of PGA's National Group underscored that: "The amendments to the Rome Statute will allow for justice. This international instrument is considered a historical milestone in the search for peace. The crime of aggression affects world peace, security and the welfare of citizens of all countries of the world."

On November 26, 2019, [Kiribati](#) became the latest state to deposit its instrument of accession to the Rome Statute of the ICC following PGA's concerted efforts. Once it enters into force, Kiribati will thus become the 123rd State Party to the ICC, accepting the Court's jurisdiction over international crimes, including environmental crimes that threaten the island nation's very survival. At the annual Assembly of States Parties (ASP) meeting in The Hague in early December, PGA Member and former Minister of Justice Hon. Natan Teewe Brechtefeld, MP proudly accepted the congratulations of fellow Member States.

As an example of PGA's efforts coming to fruition, Kiribati's accession drew on momentum generated by an interactive lunch panel on the "20th Anniversary of the Rome Statute of the ICC: Expanding ICC Membership in Pacific Island States" organized by PGA at the European Parliament in June 2018. The panel led to a Pacific Islands Roundtable convened by PGA with more than 40 parliamentarians, government representatives, and senior diplomats from 7 countries in Vanuatu in May 2019. Made possible thanks to the invaluable cooperation of the ICC, the Republic of Korea, and the European Union, the event served to dispel misconceptions, increase understanding, and generate political will to support the Rome Statute system in the Pacific region. PGA's National Groups in [Uruguay](#) and [The Gambia](#) also hosted regional working groups this year focused on the particular context, challenges, and opportunities of the fight against impunity in Latin America and Africa, respectively.



MAY 31, 2019: PACIFIC ISLANDS ROUNDTABLES ON THE RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC), PORT VILA, VANUATU

Following the Pacific Islands Roundtable and subsequent technical assistance from PGA, the final step in Kiribati's path to ratification came as the result of a strategic meeting between PGA's Secretary General and H.E. Teburoro Tito, Permanent Representative of Kiribati to the United Nations in New York and former President of Kiribati, which paved the way for deposit of Kiribati's instrument of ratification.



 **PLAY AUDIO**

**HON. NATAN TEWE  
BRECHTEFELD,  
MP (KIRIBATI),  
PGA MEMBER AND  
FORMER MINISTER OF  
JUSTICE**

"The accession is a clear signal of solidarity in addressing the most serious international crimes and Kiribati's unwavering support [for] international justice . . . and human rights. These values are represented by the ICC as the only independent and impartial permanent international judicial institution with an indispensable role in the fight against impunity." - Hon. Natan Teewe Brechtefeld, MP (Kiribati, PGA Member)

Another country where significant progress was made this year was Ukraine, where grave crimes continue to be committed in the context of the ongoing armed conflict. One year after PGA gathered legislators from all corners of the globe in Kyiv to discuss an end to impunity for the gravest crimes as part of the [Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court](#) (CAP-ICC), PGA convened an [expert discussion](#) with its partners, the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) and Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group, under the aegis of the Committee on Foreign Policy of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine. Parliamentarians had the opportunity to actively engage with legal experts, civil society representatives, and victims of international crimes. The discussion took place at a critical juncture, as the last legal obstacle toward Ukraine's ratification was removed as of July 2019. At the culmination of the session, PGA member

Hon. Maryna Bardina, Deputy Chair of the Committee, firmly committed to a path toward ratification. This message was emphasized on an international stage when, just a week later, Hon. Nemyria addressed the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the ICC in The Hague on behalf of PGA, sharing Ukraine's goal to ratify the Rome Statute in time to participate in the highly important ASP of 2020, at which several new judges and a new Prosecutor will be elected.

Beyond their own legislatures, PGA members also redoubled their commitment to support peers worldwide to ensure that in no corner of the globe will impunity be allowed. On International Justice Day, July 17, PGA President Margareta Cederfelt (MP, Sweden) joined the ICC President Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji [in an address before the United Nations in New York](#), at which she impressed that the fight against impunity is a shared responsibility. Likewise, at a high-level [discussion hosted by PGA's European Parliament Group](#) in October, PGA members underscored the critical importance of continued European support for accountability worldwide – now more than ever. As Ms. Lotte Leicht, EU Director of Human Rights Watch, appealed to participants: "This is a time when the voice of parliamentarians is indispensable – both in this house and in your national parliaments."

JULY 17, 2019: SIDE EVENT TO THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) 2019: THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ACHIEVING SDG16, CO-ORGANIZED BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND PGA, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK



This year, there were promising early signs of potential justice for victims of atrocities for whom PGA members have been [staunch advocates](#), such as the ICC's [opening of an investigation](#) into alleged crimes against the Rohingya people in Myanmar. PGA joined with NGO partners to support the right for victims to participate in ongoing International Court of Justice (ICJ) proceedings brought by The Gambia against Myanmar under the Genocide Convention. Additionally, after [repeated demands](#) for his [surrender](#), PGA [welcomed the arrest](#) of former Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir and called for the interim government to [cooperate with the ICC](#) to bring him to justice. In a pivotal decision regarding the failure of Jordan to arrest Bashir when he travelled to an Arab League summit in Amman while President of Sudan, the Appeals Chamber of the ICC unanimously re-affirmed that sitting Heads of States do not have immunity from arrest when they travel to States bound by the Rome Statute, UN Security Council resolutions, and customary international law to honor the Nuremberg trial's principle of irrelevance of official capacity.

However, 2019 was also marked by backward steps: [The Philippines' withdrawal from the Rome Statute](#) took effect in March and, despite PGA's efforts over years, in April Malaysia [reversed its decision](#) to ratify



OCTOBER 2, 2019: PGA GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEETS TO DISCUSS THE EU ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY, BRUSSELS

the Rome Statute taken by a unanimous Cabinet of Ministers at end of 2018. PGA members [fought back against attacks](#) on the ICC, including the U.S. administration's placement of visa restrictions on senior Court officials. At the same time, many ICC supporters were led to question its efficacy in the fight against impunity in light of the [latest high profile acquittals](#) and [decision not to open](#) a preliminary examination into alleged crimes committed during the U.S./Afghanistan conflict.

In this context, and as a member of the Steering Committee of the Coalition for the ICC (CICC), PGA continued to play an active role in an ongoing process of review and reform aimed at enhancing the ICC's performance, efficiency, and effectiveness. Specifically, PGA advocated for transparent, merit-based, and open calls for applications to be issued by States Parties to ensure the highest quality individuals are put forward as candidates for judges on the Court.

Thirty years since the launch of PGA's ICC Campaign in 1989, both the positive and negative developments underscore the continued relevance of PGA's work to promote the universality of the Rome Statute and improve its functioning – including through active participation in an ongoing process to review and reform the ICC. The goals of promoting the Court's universality and improving its functioning must be seen as intertwined, as PGA emphasized in its final campaign event of the year at the [18<sup>th</sup> Assembly of States Parties](#), "Pursuing Universality in an Evolving International Context."

PGA looks forward to working with all its members to evolve to meet fresh challenges and seize opportunities to achieve the full promise of a permanent Court for crimes of international concern as well as the realization of domestic justice through national implementation of the Rome Statute.



**"How can we [as members of the European Parliament] protect basic human rights if impunity for shocking atrocity crimes like genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity is still accepted?"**

– PGA Member Mr. Fabio Massimo Castaldo, MEP (Italy), Vice-President of the European Parliament

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## INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

# CAMPAIGN FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 14

The Oceans Campaign seeks to end impunity for crimes committed on the world's oceans – and their related human rights violations – through more transparency in the seafood industry. The Campaign currently works in several areas, including illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing and sustainable small-scale fisheries (SSF).



MS. PETRA BAYR, MP, AUSTRIA

**PLAY AUDIO**

In particular, PGA seeks to build political will and capacity for the national implementation of three international agreements that together may end IUU Fishing: The International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Cape Town Agreement (CTA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), and the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s Work in Fishing Convention, which are collectively known as the Three Treaties to End Illegal Fishing.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA organized a [Roundtable Discussion and Training on Three International Treaties to Address Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated \(IUU\) Fishing](#) on July 15. This meeting subsequently motivated PGA Board Member Dep. Levy Nazaré, Vice President of the National Assembly of São Tomé and Príncipe, to commit to working towards the ratification of the three treaties. His personal efforts ultimately led to São Tomé and Príncipe depositing the instrument of ratification for the Cape Town Agreement (CTA) during the [IMO Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety in Torremolinos, Spain](#) on 21 October, where PGA was officially represented by [PGA President Hon. Margareta Cederfelt \(MP, Sweden\)](#) and Board Members Hon. Béatrice Epaye (Central African Republic) and Dep. Levy Nazaré (São Tomé and Príncipe).

Ms. Cederfelt addressed the distinguished audience of the IMO Conference: "PGA is dedicated to addressing human rights issues as they relate to every aspect of life. As we know, human rights violations thrive in the world of illegal fishing. PGA particularly focuses on the ratification and implementation of three treaties that have been recognized by the IMO, FAO, and ILO to comprehensively address IUU fishing: the CTA, the Port State Measures Agreement, and the Work in Fishing Convention."

Dep. Nazaré further stated, “As democratically elected representatives, we have to be included in the conversation as we are representing our constituents, including fishermen working on the boats, businessman and, not to forget, regular people depending on fish as their main source of protein. Last month I delivered a speech as Deputy Speaker in my Parliament, highlighting the importance of the Cape Town Agreement ratification for my country. This is not only a necessary step for workers and the violation of human rights, but for addressing illegal fishing which directly impacts my country of São Tomé & Príncipe. I was able to have a discussion about this with our Minister of Agriculture, Fishing and Rural Development Francisco Ramos, who saw the importance of this topic, and decided that we will ratify the Cape Town Agreement.”



PGA PRESIDENT, MS. MARGARETA CEDERFELT (MP, SWEDEN), AND BOARD MEMBERS DEP. LEVY NAZARÉ (SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE), DEP. BÉATRICE EPAYE (CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC) AT THE IMO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN SPAIN OCT 21, 2019

PGA Members continued to significantly contribute to raising awareness about the importance of the Torremolinos Declaration and the CTA among their governments. Several member-MPs raised questions in parliament regarding their country’s ratification and the implementation status of the three treaties. PGA champions from Sweden, Dominican Republic, Austria, Ecuador, Chile, São Tomé and Príncipe, Pakistan, and Malaysia posed [parliamentary questions](#) in their National Parliaments.

In June, the [PGA Malaysia National Group hosted a meeting](#) where PGA Board Member, Hon. Kula Segaran, MP and Minister of Human Resources, focused on the important role of parliamentarians in tackling IUU fishing and related human rights abuses. The meeting was attended by the Speaker of Parliament and four additional government ministries: the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, and the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change.

As part of PGA’s 41st Annual Forum, PGA held the First International Parliamentary Oceans Day on November 22, 2019. The Forum provided the space for discussions on the role parliamentarians in the ratification of the Cape Town Agreement to end human rights abuses in the seafood industry, the necessity to support small-scale fisheries, and the importance of regulating the high seas for long-term bio-conservation.

Ambassador Peter Thomson, the UN Secretary-General Special Envoy for the Ocean, welcomed the honorable participants by stating:

“I would like to pay tribute to Parliamentarians for Global Action and the great work your organization has been doing in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Parliamentarians sit in the nexus between the aspirations of the citizenry and the creation of the laws required to meet them, thereby giving you a key role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.



“Parliamentarians can be the leaders of adaptation measures in the coastal constituencies within which they reside and work, in order to ensure that these rights and requirements are being met. We talked yesterday about providing the solutions to the problems of growing distrust between disgruntled communities and political establishments, through faithful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Helping the small-scale fisheries sector to adapt and climate-proof itself is one such solution.”



Ms. Heather Zichal, Executive Director, Blue Prosperity Coalition at the 41st Annual Forum



**“World Oceans Day, 8 June 2019, reminds us all of the importance of the oceans in our lives. Every second breath comes from the oceans. The PGA Malaysia National Group is determined to implement the goals of SDG 14 and promote the ratification and implementation of the IMO Cape Town Agreement, the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and ILO Convention on Work in Fisheries. As Minister of Human Resources, I am of the opinion that it will be wise for Malaysia with the blessing of the Cabinet members to consider Malaysia to be a signatory to ILO for fisheries.”**

**– Hon. Kula Segaran, MP (Malaysia), PGA Board Member and Minister of Human Resources, at PGA National Group Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, June 11, 2019**

To raise awareness of these issues, the PGA Secretariat created the [Parliamentary Toolkit on Ending Illegal Fishing](#) as well as factsheets for MPs on [small-scale fisheries](#) and the [High Seas Treaty](#) and the [Three Treaty Brochure](#).



**DOWNLOAD  
PARLIAMENTARY  
TOOLKIT ON ENDING  
IUU FISHING**

**DOWNLOAD**



**BROCHURE ON THE  
THREE TREATIES TO  
ADDRESS ILLEGAL,  
UNREPORTED, AND  
UNREGULATED  
FISHING**

**DOWNLOAD**



PGA ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AND TRAINING ON THREE INTERNATIONAL TREATIES TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING, JULY 15, 2019.

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## INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY PROGRAMME

# CAMPAIGN TO ADDRESS THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND TO PROMOTE THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

The SALW/ATT Campaign seeks to contribute to a reduction in armed violence, and the threat of armed violence, worldwide as a result of consequential steps taken to address the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, and, more broadly, promoting universality and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

PGA members to date have made important contributions to moving the ATT signature process forward in 44 of the 130 UN Member States that signed the ATT before the entry into force on December 24, 2014 and have also contributed substantively to 48 of the 105 UN Member States that have ratified the ATT to date.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA organized a successful [Regional Caribbean Parliamentary Workshop to Promote the Role of Women Legislators in Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons](#) in Trinidad and Tobago from September 26-27, in cooperation with the PGA National Group of Trinidad and Tobago and kindly funded by UNSCAR. Members of Parliament from Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago attended. Other participants included the [EU Head of Delegation](#) and [UN Resident Coordinator](#) in Trinidad and Tobago as well as representatives of the Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD) and the Caribbean Coalition for Development and the Reduction of Armed Violence (CDRAV). The [workshop](#) concluded with the [Port of Spain Plan of Action](#), which will be used to facilitate follow-up actions.

Following PGA advocacy in Colombia and outreach by PGA members Sen. Iván Cepeda Castro and Hon. Ángela María Robledo Gómez, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicated in February that accession to the ATT was undergoing an inter-institutional review process between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense. Similarly, in Ecuador, advocacy by PGA member Hon. María Soledad Buendía Herdoiza, MP resulted in a letter from the Foreign Minister in July indicating that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was positively evaluating the possibility of accession to the ATT following an affirmative assessment from the Ministry of Defense.

PGA member Hon. Angela Brown Burke in Jamaica addressed the specific steps that the Government of Jamaica could take to address the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons [in Parliament in December](#). In Grenada, PGA member Hon. Sen. Cathisha Williams and her fellow colleagues encouraged the relevant authorities to complete Grenada's First Report on ATT Implementation in the new year.

Palau, where PGA has been actively working for ratification since 2012, ratified the Arms Trade Treaty [in April](#). Botswana [ratified the Arms Trade Treaty in June](#) in a culmination of PGA's efforts since 2016 following a workshop in Tanzania [at which a Delegation from Botswana](#) committed to seeking this outcome. Canada also acceded to the ATT [in June](#), which was welcomed with a statement by Canadian MP and PGA member, [Hon. H  l  ne Laverdi  re, thanking PGA](#) for our advocacy work in the country and around the world. Lastly, The Maldives [acceded to the Arms Trade Treaty in September](#), with former PGA Member [Hon. Minister Ahmed Mahloof](#) playing a pivotal role.



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## INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY PROGRAMME

# CAMPAIGN FOR UNIVERSALITY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION & IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)

The BWC/1540 Campaign was launched in 2015 at PGA's [37<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum on the Role of Parliamentarians in Support of Peace and Security](#) in San Salvador, El Salvador. While the BWC was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons in 1972, it still has no mechanism of verification. Until a verification mechanism can formally be put in place, PGA believes that parliamentarians, have an essential, but under-utilized, role to play in addressing this challenge.



DEP. EMILIE B  ATRICE EPAYE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

PLAY AUDIO

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA organized several impactful workshops in 2019. In cooperation with the National Assembly of Trinidad and Tobago and its PGA National Group, PGA organized a [Regional Caribbean Parliamentary Workshop to promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 \(2004\)](#) in Port of Spain from April 29-30. Parliamentarians from 11 regional countries joined with experts from the statements by the Group of Experts of the UNSCR 1540 Committee, UNSCR 1540 Regional Coordinator, as well as a representatives from the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Ministry of Health of Trinidad and Tobago, and Global Affairs Canada. The workshop concluded with the adoption of the [Port of Spain Plan of Action](#), which included suggested steps for participant to take within their home parliaments to promote Universality and Implementation of the BWC.

In May, PGA organized a [Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Women Parliamentarians in Africa in Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction](#) in the National Assembly of The Gambia in Banjul. It was attended by women parliamentarians from 12 countries across Africa, especially those at risk of terrorist attacks and threats to peace and security. A particular focus was UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (2000). The workshop was followed by the adoption of the [Banjul Plan of Action](#).



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GAMBIA IN BANJUL - MAY 16-17, 2019

PGA also held a [Regional Caribbean Workshop on Biological Security Frameworks](#) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Kingstown on October 14. The event helped familiarize members of the Executive and Legislative branches of government from 4 countries in the region with regional and international biosecurity frameworks, particularly from a public health perspective. Lastly, in December, PGA organized a parliamentary delegation from Somalia to attend the [Annual Meeting of States Parties \(MSP\) to the BWC](#) at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The State Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Somalia, Hon. Abdullahi Hamud Mohamed, later announced the government's intention to move forward with ratification of the BWC.



DELEGATION FROM SOMALIA TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STATES PARTIES (MSP) TO THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC) IN GENEVA DEC 3-6, 2019

PGA also conducted extensive advocacy and outreach, with substantial results. In August, [Tanzania ratified](#) the BWC, with PGA member Hon. Jasson Rweikiza, MP playing a central role in the process. PGA was informed in November by Hon. Alexander Teabo, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, that Kiribati has decided to accede to the BWC. It is anticipated that the Government of Kiribati will deposit its Instrument of Accession in 2020. PGA has prepared an extensive draft Memorandum to the governments of Kiribati and Tuvalu at their request, setting out justifications for accession.

[Central African Republic](#) and the Solomon Islands both transmitted their First National Report to the UN Security Council 1540 Committee in August and December respectively. PGA continued to work with members in The Gambia, Chad, Guinea, and Mali to encourage submission of their First National Reports to the UNSCR 1540 Committee.



**“I am very pleased that the Government of Tanzania has deposited its Instrument of Ratification of the Biological Weapons Convention. This step represents the culmination of a number of years of efforts by a diverse range of stakeholders, including the PGA National Group in the Parliament of Tanzania. I look forward to progressing implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention in Tanzania in the coming months.”**

– Hon. Jasson Samson Rweikiza, MP, Chair of PGA National Group in Tanzania



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CAPE VERDE

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# 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS 16 AND 14: PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL AND INCLUSION, SAFE-GUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS, AND PROTECTING THE OCEANS.

Every year, all PGA members are invited to attend the Annual Parliamentary Forum, which has been hosted by national parliaments since 2000. These fora offer a unique opportunity to discuss pressing issues and share good practices among legislators from all over the world, as well as with high-level government and intergovernmental officials, civil society representatives, and experts.



On November 21-22, the National Assembly of Cape Verde hosted in Praia PGA's 41st Annual Forum on the [Role of Parliamentarians in the Implementation of SDGs 16 and 14: Promoting Democratic Renewal and Inclusion, Safeguarding Human Rights, and Protecting the Oceans](#). Sixty parliamentarians from the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South-East Asia participated, sharing their concerns, lessons learned, and ambitions to work towards a sustainable future. [Attendees](#) also included members of international organizations, civil society, academia, and the media.

## PART 1: PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL AND SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS (SDG 16)

The opening query addressed by the panelists was: how can parliamentarians fight for democratic renewal? This thematic discussion was followed an analysis of policies and practices to promote open, diverse and inclusive societies. For the closing of the first day of the conference, interventions dwelled on the mechanisms to ensure peaceful societies by addressing the illicit trade of small and light weapons as well as ensuring the non-proliferation of biological and chemical weapons.

## PART 2: OUR OCEANS, OUR LIVELIHOOD (SDG 14)

The first International Parliamentary Oceans Day was convened on the second day, giving place to discussions on the ratification of the Cape Town Agreement to end human rights abuses in the seafood industry, the necessity to support small-scale fisheries, and the importance of regulating the high seas for long-term bio conservation.

The Annual Forum concluded with participant legislators agreeing to concrete follow-up actions set out in the [Praia Plan of Action](#), including specific commitments to promote the adoption of legislation (or repeal of discriminatory or unjust laws) and the ratification and implementation of international treaties to bring about new or revised policies and standards in line with SDGs 16 and 14.



## DEFENDER OF DEMOCRACY AWARD

PGA's Defender of Democracy Award (DDA) honors individuals who, through their own commitment and active engagement, have made significant progress in strengthening peace, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, non-discrimination, and/or gender equality and support PGA's vision to contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world.

**In 2019, the DDA was presented to two recipients.**

## MRS. GÉGÉ KATANA BUKURU

Mrs. Gégé Katana Bukuru is an activist known as the "Iron Lady" of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for her courageous commitment to the struggle for women's rights and peace. She is the founder of Solidarity of Women Activists for the Defense of Human Rights (SOFAD), the first women's rights organization in the country.

Throughout the past 30 years, Mrs. Bukuru has advocated for the rights of women and girls to education and for the meaningful participation of women in all levels of the peace process. SOFAD's mission is to train and mobilize women activists, enhance their participation in the protection and promotion of human rights, and facilitate the rehabilitation of victims of all forms of violence. The organization also fights against the proliferation of weapons in the Great Lakes region and East Africa.

Mrs. Bukuru's activism has been recognized by Amnesty International. She continues her work despite having been arrested and forced into exile because of death threats against her and her family. Her strength and courage inspire women all over the world to stand up for their human rights.

## THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS OF CAPE VERDE

Cape Verde enjoys a stable democratic system: elections have been considered free and fair, there is a free press, and the rule of law is respected by State authorities. In acknowledgment of this, Freedom House granted Cape Verde top marks in its annual Freedom in the World report – giving a perfect score for freedom, political rights, and civil liberties.

The multi-party democratic process is the result of the struggle of the people of Cape Verde against the One Party regime (Partido Unico) during the first 15 years of the country's independence. Today, the healthy democratic system is considered the main factor in the stability and development that Cape Verde has enjoyed in the last 28 years.

The award was received by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Cape Verde, Dr. Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, on behalf of the people of Cape Verde.

# 19 — PARTNERS AND DONORS

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# 20 — FINANCIAL REPORT

PGA audited accounts are available upon request.

Please contact Mr. Michael Agbeko, Director of Administration, at [agbeko@pgaction.org](mailto:agbeko@pgaction.org).

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