



Mobilizing Parliamentarians to End Impunity for Crimes under International Law **Parliamentary Campaign for the Effectiveness and Universality of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) System (PGA Rome Statute Campaign)**

GOALS: UNIVERSALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ROME STATUTE

PGA is a network of over 1300 members from 140 Parliaments around the globe who, in their individual capacity and using their prerogatives as lawmakers, undertake initiatives to support the ICC and the rule of law. As of *April 2019*, the different initiatives and activities of these MPs have contributed directly to 77 of the 124 ratifications/accessions to the Rome Statute of the ICC, including El Salvador (2016), the Côte d'Ivoire (2013), Guatemala (2012), and Vanuatu, Cape Verde, The Maldives, The Philippines, St. Lucia, Seychelles and Bangladesh (2011). In light of the recent withdrawal by The Philippines and Burundi (which however is not impeding the exercise of the Court's jurisdiction on crimes allegedly perpetrated when the Statute was in force on their territories), there are 122 States Parties to the Rome Statute. PGA actively engages parliamentarians in the adoption of implementing legislation to ensure the effectiveness of national jurisdictions in their respective relations with the ICC and in the application of the principle of complementarity and participates in the ongoing international campaign to increase support for the Court, in particular in securing better cooperation from States in enforcing outstanding ICC arrest warrants. As of *April 2019*, PGA Members have contributed directly to the decision-making and drafting processes that led to the enactment of approximately 36 legislative packages on domestic implementation.

METHODOLOGY

The trans-regional and national mobilization of parliamentarians, supported by the PGA Secretariat, ensures accurate analyses of the different issues stalling or hampering the ICC process in different countries and the multi-partisan involvement of stakeholders to overcome these obstacles and challenges. The tailored initiatives and activities of the Campaign are structured in such a way so as to ensure 'cross-fertilization' between international and country-specific activities. PGA has identified the following **target countries** in which legislators can contribute in a concrete way to ensuring the goals of universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute system to end impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to humanity as a whole.

Updated 14 May 2019

A. PRIORITY TARGETS

(Non-exhaustive list. Underlined: short-term or mid-term results expected.)

1. Targets for ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute (13)

Africa: Guinea Bissau, Mozambique.

The Americas: Haiti, Jamaica

Asia & the Pacific: Indonesia, Malaysia¹, Nepal and *Pacific Islands States* (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu)

Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): Ukraine

Middle East and North Africa: Morocco

2. Targets on Implementation of the Rome Statute (25)

Africa: Central African Republic, [DR Congo], Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda.

The Americas: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador², Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay.

Asia & the Pacific: Bangladesh, Vanuatu

Middle East and North Africa: Tunisia.

3. 27 Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) countries not yet Parties to the RS targeted by cross-regional activities of PGA within the framework of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly [in italics States that are also specific targets]

¹ In March 2019, Malaysia deposited its instrument of accession to the Rome Statute at the UN, which was subsequently removed due to a Cabinet decision to withdraw taken in April 2019. PGA Members in Malaysia championed accession from 2004 until the December 2018 Cabinet's decision to join the Rome Statute. PGA continues its campaign to address the political, legal and constitutional mischaracterizations that have informed the debate on withdrawal.

² El Salvador became the 124th State Party thanks to the leadership contribution of PGA Members, who formed a multi-party coalition pro-accession between 2008 and 2015: on 26 November 2015, they united their force in an historic vote that allowed the first accession to the "amended" Rome Statute.

Angola, Bahamas, Cameroon, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini (Swaziland), Ethiopia, *Guinea-Bissau*, *Haiti*, *Jamaica*, *Kiribati*, Mauritania, Micronesia (Fed. States of), *Mozambique*, Niue [not UN Member], Nicaragua, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome et Principe, *Solomon Islands*, Somalia, Togo, *Tonga*, *Tuvalu* and Zimbabwe.

B. 2019-20 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS

➤ *EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE PGA ICC CAMPAIGN*

February 14, 2019: Meeting of the PGA UN Advisory Committee, Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN, New York

May 6-7, 2019: 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 31, 2019: Field Mission to Vanuatu on the promotion of universality of the Rome Statute in selected Pacific Island States and its full implementation, Port-Vila, Vanuatu [TBC]

June/July 2019: 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

II half 2019: Parliamentary Delegation/Field Mission to Jamaica on the Rule of Law (including Ratification and Implementation of the Rome Statute), Parliament of Jamaica, Kingston [TBC]

September 2019: Consultations and round-table on regional outreach in Africa, in cooperation with Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'Homme (RADDHO), Dakar, Senegal (institutional venue TBD)

Sept.-Oct. 2019: Parliamentary Roundtable on Strengthening the Criminal Justice's Response to Serious Human Rights Violations and enhancing cooperation and complementarity in the fight against impunity, in cooperation with RADDHO and the Network of Malian Parliamentarians for the Defense of Human Rights, Bamako, Mali [TBC]

October 2019: Field Mission/Roundtable to promote the implementation of the Rome Statute in Bangladesh, Dhaka [depending on the outcome of the 2018 elections - TBC]

October/November 2019: Field Mission to meet with PGA National Group and relevant stakeholders to advance the Rome Statute ratification & implementation process, in cooperation with Centre for Civil Liberties (CCL) & "Human Rights Agenda" (NGOs' coalition), Parliament of Ukraine, Kyiv [TBC]

November 21-22, 2019: Side-consultations during PGA's 41th Annual Forum on *the Role of Parliamentarians in Implementing Agenda 2030 (special focus on SDGs 5, 14 and 16)*, Parliament of Cape Verde, Praia

December 2-7, 2019: Organization of Side-events to the Assembly of States Parties to the RS of the ICC; Attendance and Intervention of PGA Delegation to the ASP, The Hague, The Netherlands

First Quarter 2020: Field Mission to promote the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute in Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

2020: Visit of Legislators from [State Non Party to the RS] to the ICC and international institutions, The Hague, NL [TBC]

2020: Visit of [Colombian] Legislators to the ICC and International Institutions, The Hague, Netherlands [TBC]

Second Quarter 2020: 8th Session of the Working Group on the Universality of the Rome Statute of the ICC in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) Region, Parliament of Morocco or Tunisia

Ongoing & Forthcoming Participation of PGA in Regional or Universal Organizations (PACE, EU, OAS, ASP, UN):

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) follow up action to ICC Report and Resolutions
- PGA participation in NGO briefings to the meetings of the EU Council WG COJUR (Public International Law, ICC sub-area)

- PGA Input to UN Meetings/UN Human Rights Council.
- Participation and intervention of PGA at the ICC Meetings (e.g. round-tables between ICC Organs and NGOs, pre- ASP meetings between NGOs and ICC, meeting with ICC officials)
- PGA active participation at The Hague Working Group and NY Working Group of the ASP, and UN 'Friends of the ICC' meetings
- Participation of PGA delegation to the OAS Working Meeting on the ICC, Washington, DC

➤ ***INTERVENTIONS AND PARTICIPATION OF PGA IN OTHER EVENTS:***

June/July 2019 [and 2020]: Consultations at the margins of the mid-year session of the Pan-African Parliament, Johannesburg, South Africa

November/December 2019/2020: Participation to the 18th and 19th Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court, The Hague, The Netherlands & New York, United Nations Headquarters

First Quarter 2020: Participation at the Special Working Meeting on the International Criminal Court, Organization of American States (OAS), Washington DC

➤ ***EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE PGA ICC CAMPAIGN IN 2018***

March 1: First Biannual Meeting of the PGA UN Committee, Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN, New York

March 12: Mission of PGA President to meet with Ukrainian Speaker of Parliament and CAP-ICC Organizing Committee, in partnership with Center for Civil Liberties (CCL), Parliament of Ukraine, Kiev

May 30: Launch of the Parliamentary Handbook on Preventing Violent Extremism and Mass Atrocities, *in partnership with All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide & other Crimes Against Humanity, the Raoul Wallenberg All Party Parliamentary Caucus for Human Rights and the Montreal Institute for Genocide & Human Rights Studies*, Parliament of Canada, Ottawa

June 8: Second Biannual UN Committee Meeting, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, New York

June 18: PGA Working Lunch on the Pacific Island States' contribution to the universality of the Rome Statute of the ICC in the margins of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (35th session, opening day), European Parliament, Brussels

July 17: 20th Anniversary of the Rome Statute of the ICC - PGA contributions to events in The Hague & New York

July 18: 20th Anniversary of the Rome Statute of the ICC - *PGA European Parliament and Italy Groups co-organize Event in the same venue where the Statute was opened for signature*, City Hall of Rome, Italy

September 6: 20th Anniversary of the Rome Statute: challenges in the protection of human rights, co-organized by the PGA National group in Uruguay, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay and the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Montevideo

September 17, 2018: Meetings and consultations on the ICC of the PGA President and Chair of Int. Council with the US Congress Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, political parties' institutions and relevant organizations, Washington DC, United States

October 4-5, 2018: Field Mission to Central African Republic to work on draft law to reform criminal code and criminal procedure code to implement the Rome Statute, in partnership with Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'Homme (Raddho), Bangui

October 18-19: Sub-Regional Seminar on the Full Implementation of the Rome Statute: A fundamental tool for strengthening the rule of law and sustainable development in peaceful and inclusive societies, Parliament of Honduras, Tegucigalpa

October 21-23: Meetings and informal consultations on the accession by Guinea Bissau to the Rome Statute of the ICC, facilitated by the PGA Guinea Bissau National Group (including Prime Minister, Justice Minister and Speaker of Parliament), Parliament and Government of Guinea Bissau, Bissau

November 16-17: 10th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC) (coinciding with the 40th Annual Forum of PGA), Parliament of Ukraine, Kiev

December 5-12: Organization of side-events to the Assembly of States Parties to the RS of the ICC; Attendance and Intervention of PGA Delegation to the ASP; The Hague, The Netherlands

Ongoing throughout 2018-19: Technical Assistance Projects upon request from Parliaments on the preparation, adoption and/or strengthening of effective implementing legislation of the Rome Statute in countries targeted by the *PGA ICC Campaign* [e.g.: Costa Rica, Honduras, Ecuador, Gambia, Vanuatu etc.]

➤ ***INTERVENTIONS AND PARTICIPATION OF PGA IN OTHER EVENTS IN 2018:***

17 January 2018: PGA participation in a debriefing on the Preparatory conference for a Multilateral Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) and Extradition for the most serious International Crimes, *organised by the Dutch Ministry for Security and Justice*, The Hague, The Netherlands

18 January 2018: ICC: PGA attendance in the opening-ceremony of the Judicial Year 2018, The Hague

31 January & 31 May 2018: *EU Council WG COJUR*: PGA participation in NGO briefings to the meetings of the EU Council WG COJUR (Public International Law, ICC sub-area), Council of the EU, Brussels, Belgium

15-16 February 2018: Participation of PGA in 20th Anniversary of Rome Statute events *organised by the CICC in partnership with relevant entities*, The Hague, The Netherlands

9 March 2018: Participation of PGA Secretary-General (SG) in a workshop on the proposed crimes against humanity convention (*organized by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Redress Trust*), Matrix Chambers, London, UK

15 March 2018: Intervention of PGA Delegation in the Special Working Session on Strengthening Cooperation with the ICC, Committee of Juridical and Political Affairs, Organisation of American States (OAS), Washington DC

27-28 March 2018: Contribution of PGA SG in Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) for Central and South-Eastern Europe, Bucharest, Romania

14-18 May 2018: Participation and intervention of PGA in round-tables between ICC Organs and NGOs, ICC, The Hague

5 June 2018: Participation and intervention of PGA at Plan of Action on Universality of The Hague Working Group, Assembly of States Parties, ICC, The Hague

28-29 Sept. 2018: Participation of PGA SG in the Latin America and Caribbean region workshop on the ILC's Draft Articles on Crimes against Humanity *organized by Washington Univ. School of Law & Pontifical Univ. of Peru*, Pontifical Univ. of Peru, Lima

October 24-25: PGA participation in the High-Level Regional Cooperation Seminar: Opportunities for cooperation and exchange of experiences at 20 years of the Rome Statute, Tbilisi, Georgia

*THE PGA ICC CAMPAIGN RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM:
THE EUROPEAN UNION, EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS*



**OAK
FOUNDATION**

THE GOVERNMENTS OF

*THE NETHERLANDS
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*PGA RECEIVES CORE SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF
SWEDEN DENMARK*

On-line access to PGA ICC Campaign: <http://www.pgaction.org/programmes/ilhr> - <https://www.facebook.com/pgaction>
<http://twitter.com/PGAAction> - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/pgaction/collections/>

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