



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

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

MOBILIZING LEGISLATORS
AS CHAMPIONS FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEMOCRACY AND PEACE



(L-R): HON. ROZAINA ADAM, MP (MALDIVES), HON. KASTHURI PATTO, MP (MALAYSIA) AND HON. MILLIE ODHIAMBO, MP (KENYA)

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01 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE YEAR 2020 WAS DEFINED BY TREMENDOUS OBSTACLES, AND MANY ACHIEVEMENTS!

Dear Friends of PGA,

For Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) – the largest non-governmental, multi-party international network of individual legislators with approximately 1,200 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 2020 was defined by tremendous obstacles, and many achievements!

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose enormous challenges with profound impacts in all of our countries. Inequalities, vulnerabilities and abuses that were afflicting many in the world even before the pandemic have only been exacerbated. In a climate of fear, marginalized sectors of society already living in precarious circumstances are confronting further alienation and victimization. Moreover, the pandemic and the resulting economic crises have had a profound impact on the world, including potential threats to democracy.

The current global health crisis requires a multilateral response.

The spirit of collective action that characterizes PGA is more important today than ever. PGA's international network stands in solidarity with champions of democracy and defenders of human rights and peace worldwide. Our Campaigns are, in fact, continuing stronger than ever with calls for actions from our National Groups and individual member-parliamentarians in all regions of the world from Ecuador to the Philippines, from Zimbabwe to Canada, from Ukraine to Trinidad and Tobago.

In the past year, PGA expanded our role as the parliamentary partner of the global human rights community with the new Parliamentary Campaign for Democratic Renewal and Human Rights. We launched the Parliamentary Rapid Response Team or "PARRT," a group of parliamentary democracy champions ready to respond when the rights of parliamentarians and human rights defenders are at-risk.

Democratic principles worldwide are in decay and while threats to democracy are not new, contemporary challenges – including the global health emergency – have put parliamentarians themselves on the frontlines. 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. The Democratic Renewal and Human Rights 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.

The simultaneous health and economic crises spurred by the global COVID-19 pandemic have underscored PGA's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, in particular, SDG 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans. PGA's Oceans Campaign addresses a significant gap in international law by linking environmental protection of the oceans – and its resources – to human rights, such as food security and full and productive employment.

In this challenging time, I am awed and inspired by 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.

While nothing can replace the important peer-to-peer learning and sharing of best practices that take place when we meet in person, PGA adapted to the new world of Zoom meetings and convened a very successful virtual [11th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court](#) (CAP-ICC). Our special thanks go to the PGA National Group in The Netherlands for co-hosting the event. The CAP-ICC should have coincided with the 42nd Annual Forum of PGA, but the Executive Committee decided to postpone the 2020 Forum due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. We very much hope and look forward to meeting again at the Annual Forum in 2021.

Finally, a big “thank you” to our invaluable network of parliamentarians and our steadfast partners and friends for your continued support of PGA's vision, namely, *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, peace and democracy around the world. I invite you to continue learning about our achievements in the following 2020 Annual Report.

We look forward to working with you in 2021.

Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP (Sweden)



**PGA PRESIDENT
MS. MARGARETA CEDERFELT
MP (SWEDEN)**

PGA'S RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Both global public health and democracy came under threat as the world responded to the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. During the crisis, PGA continued – and even intensified – its support of member-parliamentarians, working together to defend the core values of PGA, including respect for the Rule of Law, human rights and democratic principles such as the separation of powers, checks and balances and the independence of the judiciary.

Parliamentarians have a key role to play during the ongoing pandemic: in serving as an essential bridge between the Executive and the people they represent, as well as demanding and overseeing prompt and effective action from governments and the international community. Now more than ever, parliamentarians need the support of peers from around the world to share strategies and effective responses as the pandemic puts new strains on their ability to perform their mandate.

PGA's theory of change and unique membership model were crucial to empowering MPs to respond to the pandemic as well as the human rights violations committed under its cover. PGA members (and their chiefs of staff and/or legislative assistants) see the PGA Secretariat as a natural extension of their own parliamentary teams, relying on the Secretariat for advice and technical assistance. Given the extraordinary and challenging environment caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, PGA conducted its advocacy, outreach, education, activities and follow up remotely, using a variety of tools including Zoom meetings and webinars, WhatsApp communications and other forms of interactive exchanges.

In order to respond to demands from members and partners to monitor developments connected with the global health crisis and its impact on democratic principles and practices, PGA created and continuously updated a list of over 300 resources for parliamentarians on the impact of COVID-19 on democracy and human rights. Additionally, PGA disseminated a brief on actions parliamentarians could take to support vulnerable populations, including women and girls and LGBTI Persons, who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

DURING A WEBINAR ORGANIZED BY PGA AND OAS IN MAY 2020, DIP. TUCAPEL JIMÉNEZ (CHILE), CHAIR OF THE PGA INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL, ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ONE OF THE MAIN CHALLENGES DURING AND AFTER THE PANDEMIC.

2020 EVENTS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS

JAN 27-29 Participation in the Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) treaty-initiative's preparatory committee (technical session)

The Hague, The Netherlands

JAN 29-30 Regional South and South East Asia PGA Workshop to Promote Engagement by Women Legislators in Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons

Parliament of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

FEB 5-7 Participation in Law Enforcement Committee sessions on Rome Statute implementing legislation and seminar on the draft legislation

co-organized by Center for Civil Liberties-Ukraine (CCL), Rada of Ukraine (Parliament), Kyiv

FEB 17-19 Visit of Moroccan Legislators to the ICC and relevant institutions

The Hague, The Netherlands

FEB 19

Parliamentary meeting on Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament and launch of Parliamentary Handbook in Support of Disarmament for Sustainable Development

co-sponsored by Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), PGA, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW), World Future Council (WFC) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations, New York

FEB 24

Parliamentary seminar on The Role and Democratic Challenges of Parliaments in the Digital Era

co-organized with the Organization of American States (OAS), and ceremony of signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OAS and PGA, OAS Headquarters, Washington DC, USA

MAR 2-6

Participation in the Global Equality Fund's Stakeholders Workshop

Johannesburg, South Africa

MAR 8-11

Visit of Zimbabwean Legislators to the ICC and relevant institutions

The Hague, The Netherlands

MAR 10

Briefing on Three Treaties to Fight IUU Fishing and Small-Scale Fisheries

Parliament of South Africa, Cape Town

MAR 10-12

Consultations with South African MPs and Government officials on the ICC and South Africa's threatened withdrawal from the Rome Statute

Parliament of South Africa, Cape Town

MAY 15

Webinar on Political-Parliamentary Action in Times of COVID-19

co-organized with the Organization of American States [virtual]

MAY 17

Commemoration on the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia

[virtual]

MAY 22

Launch of PGA's Parliamentary Rapid Response Team (PARRT)

[virtual]

MAY 26

Launch of Urgent Action Alert 1: Malaysia

[virtual]

MAY 27

PGA National Group Meeting in Ecuador, with expert-presentation and discussion on the role of Legislators in sustainable small-scale fisheries management and presentation of PGA Campaigns

[virtual]

MAY 29

PGA Members' participation and contribution to the European Parliament's hearing with the ICC Prosecutor

organized by the Human Rights Sub-Committee (DROI) upon proposal of PGA Members, European Parliament, Brussels [hybrid in-person/virtual]

JUN 1

Launch of Urgent Action Alert 2: El Salvador

[virtual]

JUN 8

Dialogue between Presidents of Latin American Legislative Powers on Legislating, Representing and Exercising Political Control in the New Normality

in partnership with the Organization of American States [virtual]

JUN 9

Webinar on How Parliamentarians Can Use the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Post-pandemic Economic Recovery

co-organized with Parliamentarians for the Global Goals, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Inter-Parliamentary Union [virtual]

JUN 12

Participation in webinar on Proposal to Reform the Criminal Code of Honduras

hosted by the Centro para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación (SOMOS CDC) [virtual]

JUN 18-19

Participation in Copenhagen Democracy Summit of the Alliance of Democracies

[virtual]

JUL 2

Launch of Urgent Action Alert 3: Venezuela

[virtual]

JUL 7

Parliamentary Webinar on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

co-organized with Parliamentarians for the Global Goals, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Inter-Parliamentary Union [virtual]

JUL 9

Participation in webinar on How to Change the Law: Using Legislative Reform to Protect LGBT+ People

hosted by Human Dignity Trust and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global LGBT+ Rights [virtual]

JUL 13

Side-Event to the UN Human Rights Council with a Panel Discussion on Environmental Crimes, Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Prevention of Genocide

co-organized with KOO-Austria and Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN, Geneva [virtual]

JUL 21

Consultation between co-chair of the European Parliament's LGBTI Intergroup and Moroccan PGA member on human rights, privacy and inclusion

[virtual]

JUL 21

Briefing for US Congress commemorating the International Justice Day on the Enduring Legacy and Continued Importance of US Leadership in International Justice

co-organized with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC [virtual]

JUL 22

8th Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Parliamentary Working Group on the Fight Against Impunity and the Strengthening of the Rule of Law: the National, Regional and International Ramifications, session with Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia

[virtual]

JUL 24

Second Meeting of PGA's Parliamentary Rapid Response Team (PARRT)

[virtual]

AUG 21

Launch of Urgent Action Alert 4: Brazil

[virtual]

AUG 26

Parliamentary consultation on The Role of Parliamentarians in Building More Inclusive Societies

hosted by the Parliament of St. Lucia and co-organized with UNDP [virtual]

AUG 27

Launch of Statement: Zimbabwe should end Human Rights Abuses and uphold Democratic principles and the Rule of Law

AUG 28

Participation in the Malaysian Bar Council's event on International Justice and Universality and the Need for Malaysia's Accession to the Rome Statute

[virtual]

SEP 10

Side-event to the UN General Assembly on Existing Legal Limits to Security Council Veto Power in the Face of Atrocity Crimes: A Discussion with the Book's Author, Professor J. Trahan

co-organized with the Permanent Missions of Costa Rica, The Netherlands and Sierra Leone [virtual]

SEP 15

Webinar on Magnitsky-Type Sanctions as a Tool for Parliamentarians in Addressing Human Rights Abuses

co-organized with the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights (RWCHR) [virtual]

SEP 22

Workshop with Malaysian and Indonesian Parliamentarians to Address Challenges of COVID-19 through Implementation of Existing International Biosecurity and Biosafety Frameworks

co-organized with CRDF Global [virtual]

SEP 25

Third Meeting of PGA's Parliamentary Rapid Response Team (PARRT)

[virtual]

OCT 9 **Webinar on Access to Counsel: a Matter of Life or Death – What Can Parliamentarians Do? and launch of Factsheet for Parliamentarians on the occasion of the International Day against the Death Penalty**
[virtual]

OCT 11 **Launch of Statement on International Day of the Girl**

OCT 13 **Workshop with Somalian Members of Parliament to Promote Biological Security, Biosafety and Bio Risk Management Best Practices**
in partnership with CRDF Global [virtual]

OCT 23 **Seminar on the Death Penalty in the Americas**
co-organized with PGA National Group of Ecuador and the Parliamentary Group on Human Rights in the National Assembly of Ecuador [virtual]

NOV 2 **Participation in townhall meeting on supporting the International Criminal Court with ICC President Chile Eboe-Osuji**
organized by the University of Ottawa and the International Commission of Jurists, Canada [virtual]

NOV 11 **Participation in a briefing for the diplomatic community on Ukraine's implementation of International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law obligations**
organized by Center for Civil Liberties-Ukraine (CCL), Kyiv, Ukraine [virtual]

NOV 16 **National Mexico Workshop on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Regulation during COVID-19**
co-organized with the Environmental Law Institute [virtual]

NOV 18-20 **PGA participation in the COVID-19 and Domestic Violence Summit**
United Nations, New York [virtual]

NOV 19-20 **11th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC)**
hosted by the PGA National Group of the Netherlands, The Hague [virtual]

NOV 30 **National Workshop on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries**
co-hosted by the Commission on Biodiversity and Natural Resources and National Assembly of the Republic of Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador [virtual]

DEC 1 **Webinar on Improving the System for the Nomination and Elections of Judges: Can the ICC System Learn from the European Court of Human Rights?**
in cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), The Hague/Strasbourg [virtual]

DEC 4 **Fourth meeting of the Parliamentary Rapid Response Team (PARRT)**
featuring Sen. Boris Dittrich (Chair, PGA National Group of The Netherlands) and Mr. Reinaldo Villalba on behalf of PGA member Sen. Iván Cepeda Castro (Columbia), The Hague/New York [virtual]

DEC 4 **Participation in workshop on the Role of Parliaments in the Establishment of Sanctions**
organized by the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), Washington/New York, USA [virtual]

DEC 9-10 **Southern Africa Regional LGBTQI+ Conference with MPs from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe**
co-organized with the Southern Africa Litigation Centre, Human Dignity Trust and Out and Proud [hybrid in-person/virtual]

DEC 10 **Human Rights Day event honoring the late Dr. Felipe Michelini, former PGA Board Member and Chair of Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims at the ICC, with remarks by the PGA President**
co-hosted with the Trust Fund for Victims and the Governments of Dominican Republic and Uruguay [virtual]

DEC 14-18 **Participation in the 19th Assembly of States Parties (ASP) of the International Criminal Court, World Congress Forum**
The Hague/United Nations, New York

DEC 16 **Webinar on the Role of Parliamentarians in Advancing Girls' Rights: Ending Child, Early and Forced Marriage in Kenya and Zimbabwe**
co-organized with Girls Not Brides Kenya [virtual]

DEC 18 **Side Event to the 19th Session of the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court on Assessing the Independent Expert Review (IER) Report's Findings and Recommendations on Victims' Rights, the Perspectives of NGOs, and a Tribute to the Legacy of Dr. Felipe Michelini**
hosted by the Permanent Mission of Italy, co-organized with the Victims' Rights Working Group and co-sponsored by Redress, FIDH and the ICMGLT [virtual]

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-centered 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: 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



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



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



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 BIOLOGICAL SECURITY AND HEALTH

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.



CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF THE NEGOTIATION OF A TREATY PROHIBITING FULLY AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS (FAWS)

The global drift towards manufacture and usage of FAWs poses a clear and present danger to humanity and life as we know it. Parliamentarians can play a unique role, both as advocates and lawmakers, to galvanize support for a Treaty on the Prohibition of Fully Autonomous Weapons.

06 — 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

Despite the pause of in-person meetings due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, PGA continued its outreach to parliamentarians and welcomed new members in 2020, including in Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq and Mexico.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:	1,107
Male:	712
Female:	395
NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTS:	131
NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS:	127
REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS:	4
OBSERVER STATUS PARLIAMENTS:	3

07 — MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY

AFRICA (432 MEMBERS, 39 COUNTRIES)

Angola	2	São Tomé and Príncipe *	8
Benin	2	Senegal	13
Botswana	1	Seychelles	1
Burkina Faso **	15	Sierra Leone	8
Cameroon	5	Somalia	10
Cape Verde **	26	South Africa	20
Central African Republic **	29	South Sudan	3
Chad	5	Tanzania *	15
Comoros	1	Togo	1
Côte d'Ivoire	10	Uganda *	43
Djibouti	1	Zambia	2
DR Congo	37	Zimbabwe **	24
Eswatini	1		
Ethiopia	1		
Gabon	2		
Gambia **	10		
Ghana	30		
Guinea Bissau	11		
Kenya	46		
Liberia	3		
Madagascar	1		
Malawi	7		
Mauritania	1		
Mozambique	16		
Namibia *	6		
Niger	3		
Nigeria *	13		

MIDDLE EAST & THE MEDITERRANEAN (50 MEMBERS, 9 COUNTRIES)	
Algeria	1
Iraq *	11
Jordan	4
Lebanon	1
Morocco	11
Oman	1
Tunisia	6
Turkey	1
Yemen	7

* denotes PGA National Group
** reflected in national lists

AMERICAS (278 MEMBERS, 27 COUNTRIES)

Antigua & Barbuda	3
Argentina *	42
Aruba	1
Barbados	5
Belize	8
Bolivia	1
Brazil	13
Canada *	14
Chile **	10
Colombia	7
Costa Rica	5
Dominican Republic	25
Ecuador*	16
El Salvador	29
Grenada	3
Guyana	1
Honduras *	21
Jamaica	3
Mexico	3
Panama	2
Paraguay	15
Saint Lucia	3
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	1
Suriname	6
Trinidad & Tobago	7
United States	13
Venezuela *	21

ASIA (128 MEMBERS, 12 COUNTRIES)

Afghanistan	5
Bangladesh	10
Cambodia	1
India *	19
Indonesia	5
Japan	12
Malaysia *	28
Nepal	6
Pakistan **	18
Philippines	4
Singapore	1
Sri Lanka	19

THE PACIFIC (48 MEMBERS, 11 COUNTRIES)

Australia**	11
Fiji	4
Maldives	3
Micronesia (Federated States of)	2
New Zealand	7
Papua New Guinea	1
Samoa	8
Solomon Islands	2
Tonga	4
Tuvalu	5
Vanuatu	1

EUROPE (157 MEMBERS, 26 COUNTRIES)

Albania *	14
Austria	2
Belgium	4
Denmark	11
Estonia	1
Finland	5
Georgia	1
Germany	2
Ireland	5
Italy *	10
Lithuania	1
Montenegro	1
Netherlands *	13
North Macedonia	2
Norway	7
Poland	2
Portugal	4
Romania	1
Serbia	1
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	1
Sweden	21
Switzerland	6
Ukraine	22
United Kingdom **	18

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS (25 MEMBERS, 4 REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS)

ECOWAS Parliament	6
European Parliament	18
Pan-African Parliament	3
Parlacen	
PARLATINO	1

OBSERVER COUNTRIES (4 MEMBERS, 3 OBSERVER COUNTRIES)

Cook Islands	1
Palestine	1
Sudan	2

* denotes PGA National Group

** reflected in national lists

MEMBERSHIP WORLD MAP

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS

OBSERVER COUNTRIES

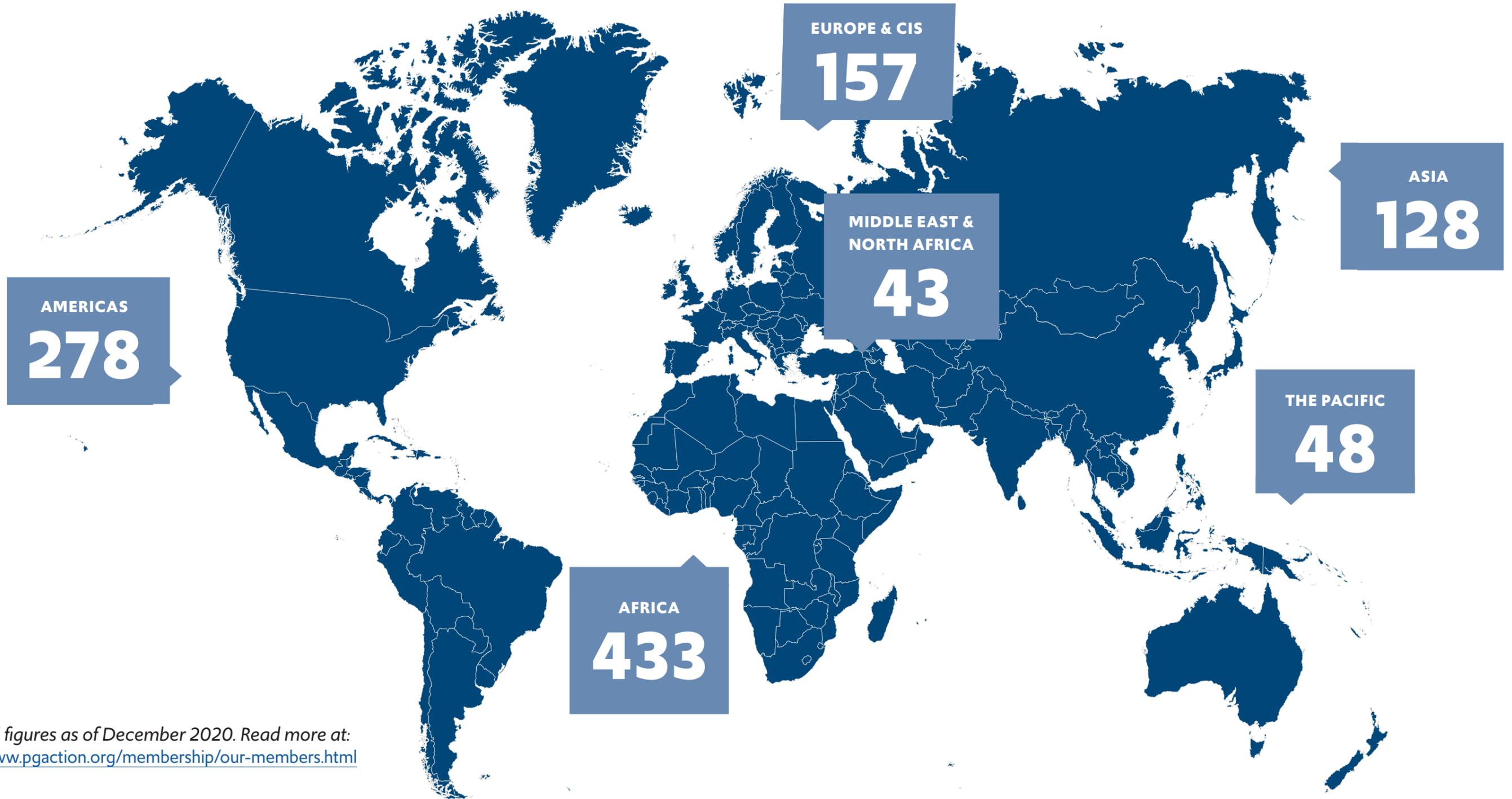
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THE FIVE REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS ARE:

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

THE THREE OBSERVER STATUS PARLIAMENTS ARE:

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 2020. Read more at:
www.pgaction.org/membership/our-members.html

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT



Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP
Sweden

CHAIR OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL



Dip. Victor Orlando Bisonó
Dominican Republic
January – August 2020,
resigned from Parliament to
become Minister



Dip. Tucapel Jiménez Fuentes
Chile
Acting Chair from September
2020

TREASURER



Dep. Levy Nazaré
São Tomé and Príncipe



Ms. Petra Bayr, MP
Austria



Mr. Ali Ehsassi, MP
Canada



Dep. Emilie Béatrice Epaye
Central African Republic



Dip. Jorge Cálix
Honduras



Hon. Millie Odhiambo, MP
Kenya



Hon. Kasthuri Patto, MP
Malaysia



Hon. Rozaina Adam, MP
Maldives



Dep. Amina Maelainine
Morocco



Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar, MP
Pakistan



Dep. António Niquice
Mozambique

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Mr. Anastas Angjeli, MP (Albania)

Dip. María Carla Piccolomini (Argentina)

Ms. Maria Vamvakinou, MP (Australia)

Dep. Reine Sakande (Burkina Faso)

Dep. José Manuel Sanches Tavares (Cape Verde)

Hon. Roland Achille Bangué Betangai, MP (Central African Republic)

Dip. Magda Rodríguez (Dominican Republic)

Dip. María Soledad Buendía (Ecuador)

Mr. Fabio Massimo Castaldo, MEP Italy (European Parliament)

Hon. Dawda Kawsu Jawara, MP (The Gambia)

Ms. Supriya Sadanand Sule, MP (India)

Mr. Faig Al Sheikh Ali, MP (Iraq)

Ms. Lia Quartapelle, MP (Italy)

Hon. Ana Rita Sithole, MP (Mozambique)

Hon. Evelyn Nawases-Taeyele, MP (Namibia)

Sen. Boris Dittrich (The Netherlands)

Mr. Adrian Rurawhe, MP (New Zealand)

Hon. Abdulrazak Namdas, MP (Nigeria)

Hon. Raul Cardoso, MP (São Tomé and Príncipe)

Hon. Patrick Kensenhuis, MP (Suriname)

Mr. Anders Österberg, MP (Sweden)

Hon. Jasson Rweikiza, MP (Tanzania)

Sen. Wade Mark (Trinidad and Tobago)

Hon. Jacob Oboth-Oboth, MP (Uganda)

Dr. Hryhoriy Nemyria, MP (Ukraine)

Mr. Mark Pritchard, MP (United Kingdom)

Dip. Armando Armas (Venezuela)

Hon. Dorcas Sibanda, MP (Zimbabwe)

PGA SECRETARIAT

PGA's Secretariat is the operational body of the organization. It is responsible for the management and execution of the campaigns and provides technical and legal assistance to all PGA members. Its headquarters is in New York, United States. The Secretariat also has an office in The Hague, the Netherlands.

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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 /GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

H.E. Mr. Jan Kickert
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Austria
President of the Economic and Social Council

H.E. Mr. Rodrigo A. Carazo
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
Ambassador at Large for Human Rights and Migration, Republic of Estonia

H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog
Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

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. Jürg 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

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
Board Member of the Trust Fund for Victims at the ICC; former President of PGA

MEMBERS

Ambassador Martin Sajdik, Austria
Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations; former Chair of UN ECOSOC

Mr. Victor (Ito) Bisonó, Dominican Republic
Minister for Industry, Trade and Commerce; former PGA Executive Committee member

Judge Song Sang-Hyun, Republic of Korea
former President of the ICC

Dr. Deborah Ruiz Verduzco, Mexico
former Deputy-Director of PGA's International Law and Human Rights Programme

Mr. Coşkun Çörüz, The Netherlands
former PGA Executive Committee member

Dr. Bernadette Lahai, Sierra Leone
former PGA Executive Committee member

Ambassador Stephen J. Rapp, United States
Visiting Fellow at Oxford University's Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict's Programme on International Peace and Security; former US Ambassador for Global Criminal Justice

CORE CAMPAIGN

10 DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

PGA's core Campaign for Democratic Renewal and Human Rights (DRHR Campaign) seeks to contribute to the organization's vision of a "rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world" by enlisting, empowering and equipping parliamentarians as human rights activists and democracy defenders.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

As the COVID-19 pandemic impacted every country in the world, an alarming number of States – even those with a democratic form of governance – used the health emergency as an excuse to curtail human rights and democracy. PGA responded by publishing a [COVID-19 Democracy and Human Rights resource hub for parliamentarians](#), with over 200 resources. Designed to meet the many requests for information from parliamentarians, the hub can be filtered by type of resource and issue (such as Democracy, Human Rights, Gender and Vulnerable Populations, Information/Media/Privacy and State Action). PGA also published a practical list of [concrete actions MPs can take to protect human rights during the global health crisis](#).

PGA published a [Call to Defend Democracy](#) in collaboration with other institutions, world leaders and Nobel Laureates, and on the **International Day of Parliamentarianism** on 30 June 2020, PGA Members [reflected on how Parliamentarians must face the democratic impacts of COVID-19 together](#) in an inspiring op-ed. The PGA National Group of **Argentina** also [expressed support for an initiative](#) by Global Democracy on global democratic governance, which aims to generate political will for necessary reforms within international institutions due to the health and economic crises caused by the pandemic.

Legislators have had to adapt to social-distancing and other safety measures to slow the progression of the pandemic, leading many parliaments to work virtually or in a hybrid form. This novel situation brought about challenges but also opportunities. On 15 May 2020, PGA and the Organization of American States (OAS) organized a webinar on "[Political parliamentary action in times of COVID-19](#)" in which Latin American legislators reflected on opportunities, challenges and resources needed to prepare for an adequate post-COVID-19 political response.

PGA launched the [Parliamentary Rapid Response Team \(PARRT\)](#) in May 2020, a working group of champion parliamentarians committed to defending democracy and human rights through targeted actions. The PARRT meets virtually on at least a bi-monthly basis to set priorities, define targets and develop strategic

methodology and actions to defend democracy within parliaments and internationally. PARRT member Ms. Anita Vandenberg, MP (Canada) [delivered powerful remarks](#) in the House of Commons to announce the PARRT's launch. She specifically cited the democratic threats posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in many countries, including the deliberate silencing of MPs and sidelining of the legislative branch.



ANITA VANDENBELD, MP (CANADA) AND FOUNDING MEMBER OF PGA'S PARLIAMENTARY RAPID RESPONSE TEAM (PARRT) DISCUSSED ITS PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA.

 PLAY VIDEO

The PARRT raised awareness on situations where parliamentarians, human rights defenders, journalists and vulnerable populations were at risk. While using their parliamentary prerogatives as well as their diplomatic and communication capabilities, MPs acted to support cases referred to the organization. Several urgent action alerts and statements were issued in 2020.

In **Malaysia**, [Urgent Action Alert 1: Attacks on the Legislature in Malaysia](#) was issued following the closure of parliament to obstruct proceedings under the guise of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Malaysian government's diminution of the parliamentary session to a single day, at which no legislative business could be deliberated – even with regard to the critical issue of COVID-19 response and precautions – was an unacceptable attempt to undermine parliamentary democracy. This PGA intervention helped raise the level of international attention to the so-called "backdoor Government" of Malaysia, which formed itself in the first months of the 2020 pandemic. The government has not presented itself before Parliament to obtain a vote of confidence, defeating the purpose of the parliamentary-based constitutional monarchy that informs Malaysian basic law.

In June 2020, PGA issued [Urgent Action Alert 2: Attacks on the Legislature in El Salvador](#) following the president of **El Salvador's** directive to the military to break into the national assembly and make arrests to "neutralize the increase of COVID-19 infections" violated democratic principles and the separation of powers of the state. The Supreme Court of Justice issued several resolutions declaring these arrests to be illegal under domestic law, but the President repeatedly ignored the Court's pronouncements.

PGA issued [Urgent Action Alert 3: Closing Civic Space in Venezuela](#) following the repressive actions of the Chávez administration and Maduro regime. In **Venezuela**, democratic space has been reduced, resulting in the persecution of parliamentarians and the backsliding of the Rule of Law and human rights. PGA urged the government of Venezuela to reestablish democratic order in the country, respect the integrity and autonomy of governance institutions, and guarantee the principles of the Rule of Law. PGA issued a follow-up statement on Venezuela as [Dep. Armando Armas](#), Chair of PGA Venezuela National Group, and his immediate family were threatened and attacked by the Maduro Regime in September 2020. PGA recognizes the National Assembly of Venezuela elected in 2015 as the only legitimate Parliament and continues to work with its members worldwide to restore democracy and human rights in Venezuela, as recently reaffirmed by the European Parliament in a resolution supported by many PGA Members (see overleaf).

“The illegal and illegitimate parliamentary elections held in Venezuela on 6 December 2020 were conducted without complying with the minimum international standards for a credible process and failed to respect political pluralism, democracy, transparency and the rule of law.”

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
RESOLUTION OF 21 JANUARY 2021
ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
VENEZUELA (2021/2508(RSP))

Brazil grappled during the COVID-19 pandemic with disinformation campaigns carried out at the highest levels of the government and society against [Indigenous people](#), undermining the proper functioning of institutions and weakening respect for human rights. PGA issued [Urgent Action Alert 4: Disinformation and Targeting Marginalized Groups in Brazil](#) following the government’s gross negligence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In June 2020, PGA urged its members to [S.T.A.N.D.](#) with Hong Kong with 5 concrete ways to take action, including joining over 700 global leaders and legislators in a statement of support and considering taking legislative measures such as the introduction of so-called Magnitsky-type sanctions. Subsequently, as the law came into effect in July 2020 – the 23rd anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong from British administration and colonial rule – PGA President Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP (Sweden) and Executive Committee member Mr. Ali Ehsassi, MP (Canada) issued a [firm and unwavering condemnation](#) of China’s actions in violation of international law, stating: Under the treaty between China and the UK that provides the basis for the Basic Law [constitution] of Hong Kong, Honk Kong remains legally bound by the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and any infringement of the Covenant is a matter of concern for all UN Member States. Therefore, any claims that foreign powers would be breaching the principle of non-interference in domestic affairs are misguided and unfounded.

In light of unrest and calls for racial justice in the **United States** in June 2020, PGA issued a statement on the [Degradation of Rule of Law in the United States: The Role of Parliamentarians as Custodians of Democracy, Human Rights, Justice and Peace](#). The statement featured powerful remarks by PGA Member and Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the US House of Representatives Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), calling for justice, accountability and respect for human rights.

The Government of **Zimbabwe** increasingly used authoritarian measures to crack-down on opposition. In September 2020, PGA called for the end to oppression of civil and political rights [under the guise of coronavirus response](#), in which peaceful protests resulted in the arrest of opposition members; and several female members of the opposition were kidnapped, tortured and sexually assaulted. PGA Member-Parliamentarian and founding member of the PARRT, Hon. Dorcas Sibanda was recalled from Parliament as the government was given broad power to unilaterally withdraw members from other political parties. She raised her case during a meeting of the PARRT in December 2020, and her colleagues from other regions expressed their unwavering support for her litigation before the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe.

Throughout 2020, PGA highlighted cases of persecution of parliamentarians and human rights defenders, including members of vulnerable or marginalized groups. Senator Leila de Lima of **The Philippines**, who has been incarcerated for over 3 years, was also denied the right to participate in remote sessions of parliament. In response, PGA and allies across the world issued a statement [demanding that she be allowed to participate in legislative proceedings](#). PGA [issued several public calls](#) for her immediate and unconditional release from detention and expressed strong support for Sen. de Lima’s legislative initiative to end and outlaw the practice of extrajudicial killings and summary executions in The Philippines.

[Asambleísta Soledad Buendía](#), Chair of the PGA **Ecuador** National Group, spoke to PGA about the violations of her rights due to her political positions in April 2020. After fleeing to Mexico City following death threats, Asambleísta Buendía was prevented from participating in virtual parliamentary sessions.

PGA addressed the need to promote multi-party democracy while safeguarding democratic principles and institutions in the face of rapid development of new Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), even prior to the COVID-19 global pandemic. In February 2020, in cooperation with the chair of PGA’s International Council, Dip. Ito Bisonó (Dominican Republic), PGA organized an [Institutional Dialogue on the Role of Parliamentarians as Defenders of Democracy in the Digital Era](#), with a focus on e-governance tools and cybersecurity capabilities. The event concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS).

On 27 February 2020, PGA marked the [5th anniversary of the assassination of Mr. Boris Nemtsov](#), an opposition politician and human rights advocate in **Russia**. PGA also issued a [statement in support of jailed human rights attorney Nasrin Sotoudeh](#) in **Iran** and [3 leaders of a prominent civil society organization](#) in **Egypt** held in pretrial detention on baseless charges.

To commemorate the **International Day of Democracy**, PGA and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights (RWCHR) organized a [Panel Discussion on Magnitsky-type sanctions](#) and how legislators can contribute to preventing and fighting impunity for the violation of human rights.



**PGA PANEL DISCUSSION ON
MAGNITSKY-TYPE SANCTIONS WITH
THE RAOUL WALLENBERG CENTER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**

GENDER, EQUALITY & INCLUSION PROGRAMME

CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE

PGA's Campaign to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM Campaign) seeks to end child, early and forced marriage by providing tools to parliamentarians to assert the primacy of national legislation over religious prescriptions and local customary laws; establish 18 years as the minimum age for legal marriage; reaffirm civil registration for births and marriages, health and education systems; and guarantee the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights, property rights, and access to justice for all girls and women.

PGA members have contributed to reforms of civil and family codes in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi and Trinidad and Tobago, raising the minimum marriage age for boys and girls up to 18 years and nullifying the exceptions that allowed marriage prior to this age. PGA's [Global Parliamentary Declaration to End Child Marriage](#) has secured commitments from 774 MPs from 80 countries around the world in support of SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, particularly its target 5.3 on ending all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage by 2030.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2020, PGA member-parliamentarians played a leading role in the adoption of reforms to prohibit child marriage in the Dominican Republic and the Philippines.

In November, PGA member [Dip. José Horacio Rodríguez introduced a bill](#) in the Congress of the Dominican Republic modifying the Civil Code to establish that a man or a woman may not marry under any circumstances before age 18. President Luis Abinader subsequently signed into law the prohibition of child marriage on 6 January 2021.



DIP. MAGDA RODRÍGUEZ, CHAIR OF PGA'S NATIONAL GROUP IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC COMMENDS THE SENATE'S APPROVAL OF BILL PROHIBITING CHILD MARRIAGE

 **PLAY AUDIO**

In the **Philippines**, PGA member [Senator Leila de Lima co-authored the "Girls Not Brides Act,"](#) a bill prohibiting minors from marrying (either to other minors or adults) and outlining prison sentences and fines for perpetrators. Sen. de Lima remains in detention at the headquarters of the Philippine National Police since her [arrest in February 2017](#) on politically-motivated charges.

The Philippines is a powerful model for neighboring countries in the Southeast Asian region, where cases of child marriage continue to rise amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill still needs to pass the House of Representatives before being submitted to the President and enacted into law. PGA will continue to monitor the legislative progress and support this initiative in the Philippines.

Additionally, **Ecuador's** National Assembly initiated a dialogue in 2020 to reform the criminal code to establish child marriage as a crime.

PGA also worked to sensitize parliamentarians in **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Kenya** and the **Maldives**, using strategic actions and events to increase their awareness and understanding of the human rights of girls.

In collaboration with partner Girls Not Brides, a global partnership of civil society organizations committed to ending child marriage, PGA held in December 2020 a [webinar on The Role of Parliamentarians in Advancing Girls' Rights and ending Child, Early and Forced Marriage in Kenya](#), especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Parliamentarians discussed the current situation of CEFM and female genital mutilation (FGM) in the country and region and how to build political will among Kenyan MPs to revitalize the National Strategy to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage. Parliamentarians from Uganda and Zimbabwe shared their experiences and lessons learned in preparing a National Action Plan to end CEFM. The Dialogue led to a direct connection between MPs and the National Partnership to end Child Marriage in Kenya which will continue meeting in 2021 to discuss next steps at the national level.

In October 2020, the High Court of the **Maldives**, with the full support of Parliament's Human Rights and Gender Committee, recognized [marital rape as a crime](#).

PGA mobilized its network of parliamentarians around the world on the occasion of the [International Day of the Girl](#) in October 2020 and during the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence](#) in November 2020. These advocacy campaigns utilized social media platforms to engage parliamentarians and women and human rights defenders alike on the disproportionate effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls.

Also in October 2020, PGA launched a new multimedia advocacy campaign, called the [One-on-One Interview Series](#). The personal videos ([also available on PGA's YouTube channel](#)) share the stories of member-parliamentarians, including their reasons for choosing a political career – and, in the process,



"Child marriage has no place in a civilized world. Girls must be educated; they must be allowed to play and learn and enjoy life. We are duty-bound by the Constitution and international treaties to not only protect and uphold their rights, but to also raise girls into strong women. I fully support this measure, with a hope and prayer that this will spark the most needed change."

– PGA Member Senator Leila de Lima, The Philippines

becoming human rights defenders – their work with PGA and the importance of addressing gender issues in their countries.

Lastly, as part of the PGA Secretariat's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hon. Kasthuri Patto, MP, (Malaysia), Executive Committee member; Hon. Dennitah Ghati, MP (Kenya); and former PGA President Minou Tavaréz participated in the [International Summit on Domestic/Family Violence in the COVID-19 Era](#) in November 2020. PGA co-organized the event in collaboration with a range of organizations to discuss ending violence against women and impunity against international crimes, specifically in the context of the ongoing crisis.



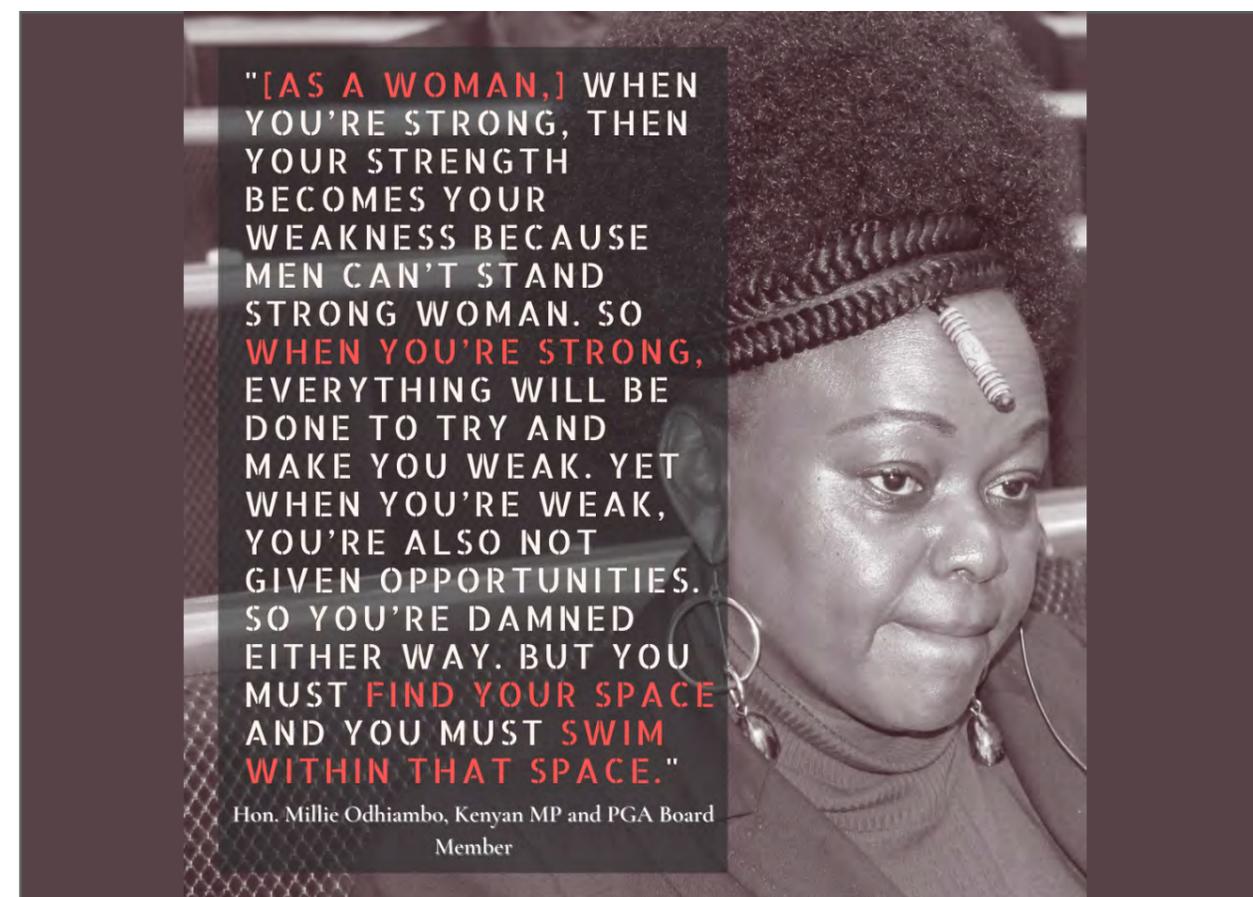
"It is with great joy that I welcome the verdict of the Maldives High Court today, sentencing the man as guilty on the charge of marital rape, amongst other charges. This is a historical moment for the Maldives, as it is the first time that marital rape has been recognized in a court in Maldives. It is a major step forward in our effort to stop domestic violence and violence against women as well as protecting women's rights."

– Hon. Rozaina Adam, MP (Maldives), PGA Executive Committee member



“
*PGA has changed my perception on my role as a legislator. PGA has opened my eyes, and even my boundaries, and **widened my range of action.** PGA has showed me that there are more legislators abroad with similar ideas and goals to mine, aimed at driving positive change. It has also taught me, that each of us, from our own Parliament, can foster similar policies to **build a better world and live in peace, democracy and justice.***

DIP. JORGE CALIX, HONDURAS AND PGA BOARD MEMBER



"[AS A WOMAN,] WHEN YOU'RE STRONG, THEN YOUR STRENGTH BECOMES YOUR WEAKNESS BECAUSE MEN CAN'T STAND STRONG WOMAN. SO **WHEN YOU'RE STRONG, EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE TO TRY AND MAKE YOU WEAK. YET WHEN YOU'RE WEAK, YOU'RE ALSO NOT GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES. SO YOU'RE DAMNED EITHER WAY. BUT YOU MUST **FIND YOUR SPACE** AND YOU MUST **SWIM WITHIN THAT SPACE.**"**

Hon. Millie Odhiambo, Kenyan MP and PGA Board Member

12 CAMPAIGN AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

The Campaign against Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI Campaign) seeks to mobilize parliamentarians as human rights champions, taking action to guarantee that all individuals have equal value, live with dignity, and are able to achieve their highest potential free from all forms of violence and discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

PGA has sensitized and engaged 200+ parliamentarians from over 45 countries and facilitated meaningful interactions with representatives of the LGBTI community in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, PGA members have contributed to legislative reforms, including decriminalization of homosexuality where present, in Angola, Bolivia, Chile, El Salvador, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, the Republic of the Seychelles, and Uruguay.

In collaboration with the UN Development Programme, PGA published *Advancing the Human Rights and Inclusion of LGBTI People: A Handbook for Parliamentarians* and launched an [LGBTI Inclusion Site](#) with tools designed to assist parliamentarians and stakeholders better understand their role in ensuring equality and non-discrimination of all individuals.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The PGA Secretariat sensitized parliamentarians in Barbados, Dominican Republic, and Italy using strategic actions and events to increase both their awareness and understanding of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression and sex characteristics.

The Parliament of **Barbados** adopted the [Equal Employment \(Prevention of Discrimination\) Act 2020](#) in August 2020. Importantly, the Law included sexual orientation as a category protected against workplace discrimination and guaranteed equal access to employment and adequate redress in case of discrimination. PGA continued to work with Hon. Colin Jordan, Minister of Labor and Social Partnerships, to increase sensitization of MPs to the importance of addressing gender identity and expression in employment protections and further protections for transgender and gender non-conforming people in the workplace.

The Chamber of Deputies of **Italy** [adopted an anti-discrimination bill](#) that makes violence against women and LGBTI people a hate crime. The bill was passed by 265 votes to 193 in the 630-member Chamber of Deputies in November 2020. It is awaiting approval from the Senate, where it is likely to pass into law with the support of the ruling coalition parties.



“The LGBTI community needs adequate means of protection by the State, and that is what we are going to do. Since we already have a law against discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality or religion, we are simply going to extend article 604 bis and ter of the Criminal Code to discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity. On the other hand, misogyny is a well-recognized issue. Women are too often criticized or insulted for their gender rather than their opinions or capabilities. This bill has, therefore, a great cultural value as well, as it aims not only to punish but to spread a message of mutual respect in society.”

– PGA member Senator Alessandra Maiorino (Italy)

PGA member-parliamentarians in the **Dominican Republic** also took an important step towards equality and non-discrimination in their country by introducing an important [project of General Law on Equality and Non-Discrimination in the Human Rights Committee](#) in the Chamber of Deputies in November 2020.

The law seeks to protect all people, especially those in vulnerable categories, including children, women, adolescents and young people at social risk, people with HIV and people discriminated against because of their skin color, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic position, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression among others. It was referred to the Human Rights Committee by its president, PGA member Dip. Juan Dionisio Rodríguez Restituyo. Dip. Magda Rodríguez Azcona, Chair of the Gender Equality Affairs Committee and Chair of PGA's National Group in the Dominican Republic, co-sponsored the project. Parliamentarians in **Belize**, **Honduras** and **Kenya** sensitized by PGA also discussed general non-discrimination legislation that would include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected categories against discrimination, among other protections for vulnerable populations. In **Kenya**, the bill addresses the rights of intersex people.

In August 2020, PGA co-organized with UNDP a virtual Regional Caribbean Consultation on [The Role of Parliamentarians in Building More Inclusive Societies](#), which was hosted by Hon. Andy Daniel, Speaker



“Who agrees it is okay to discriminate against someone in this country? Who agrees it is okay to abuse the right to equality of someone? No one agrees. I believe that just as we have the rights to education, health and employment, among others, enshrined in our Constitution and their respective general laws to establish how the State guarantees and regulates each of these rights, it is high time that we have a law that establishes how the State ensures the right to equality for all so it no longer remains a dead letter.”

– PGA Member Dip. José Horacio Rodríguez Grullón (Dominican Republic)

of the House of Assembly of Saint Lucia. Eight parliamentarians from **Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Barbados, Jamaica and Saint Lucia** participated and shared their countries’ experiences with LGBTI civil society participants from the Caribbean region. Mr. Víctor Madrigal, UN Independent Expert on the protection against violence and discrimination based on SOGI and Commissioner Flávia Piovesan, Rapporteur on the Rights of LGBTI Persons at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights also presented their recommendations. The meeting allowed LGBTI activists from Barbados and St. Lucia to increase their engagement with participating MPs, leading to immediate follow up in **Barbados** with Minister Colin Jordan. As a next step, PGA will organize a session with parliamentarians on legislative reform and protective measures at the Regional Dialogue convened by UNDP under its “Being LGBTI in the Caribbean” program scheduled to take place virtually in April 2021.

Furthermore, parliamentarians in **Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Suriname** have established productive collaboration and ongoing dialogue with local LGBTI activists with PGA’s assistance.

PGA’s partnership with the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) following the joint 2019 Global Convening on Strategies to Decriminalize SOGI continued in 2020. Together, PGA and

SALC co-organized a Regional Conference on LGBTQI+ Activism in the **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** in December 2020. The event was a hybrid of in-person meetings at the local level in nine countries and virtual sessions at the regional level. Hon. Dorcas Sibanda, MP and Chair of PGA’s National Group in Zimbabwe participated in the two-day meeting with activists in Harare. As a result, PGA is exploring a follow-up in-country meeting with different stakeholders in collaboration with SALC in 2021.

PGA mobilized its network of parliamentarians around the world on the occasion of the [International Day of Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia](#) in May 2020, disseminating a joint statement with the International Association of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Trans and Intersex for Latin America and the Caribbean (ILGALAC) on the disproportional effect of COVID-19 on LGBTI people. PGA highlighted the importance of “breaking the silence” that made people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions and sex characteristics invisible and marginalized during the global health crisis, calling on parliamentarians to address the specific needs of LGBTI people, providing them with relevant information and support.



“A survey in Jamaica shows that the majority (58%) of LGBTI persons do not feel comfortable being openly LGBTI in the country, and most would consider leaving the country due to discrimination. In order to move the needle, you need to build alliances between parliamentarians and LGBTI civil society to bring about change.”

– PGA Member Hon. Dr. Angela Brown-Burke, MP (Jamaica)

“
 It is necessary to find ways of safe activism to maintain visibility of the many instances of discrimination, including in faraway cities and towns, because the quarantine does not mean silencing, and staying home does not mean to remain silent.
”

Robeyoncé Lima, Brazilian lawyer, activist and PGA-member parliamentarian

13 **CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY**

PGA's Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty (ADP Campaign) mobilizes member-parliamentarians worldwide to abolish or, at a minimum, restrict the use of capital punishment, while addressing its discriminatory effects against vulnerable groups. The campaign aims at creating a shared culture of legality for the respect of human rights in which there is no place for a revengeful use of justice.

To change domestic legal orders, PGA members use their prerogatives to modify pertinent laws, including constitutions. They also promote the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (OP2 ICCPR) and the adoption of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2020, PGA members achieved significant progress towards the domestic abolition of the death penalty in Africa.

In **Zimbabwe**, Hon. Dorcas Sibanda introduced a motion in the National Assembly to abolish the death penalty in April 2020. During an [interview](#) with a local newspaper, she explained the importance of PGA's ADP Campaign and why the death penalty is not justice and should be completely abolished.

Also in 2020, the National Assembly of **Chad** approved a bill on the full abolition of the death penalty for all crimes, including acts of terrorism.

To mark the [18th World Day Against the Death Penalty](#) – celebrated annually on 10 October – PGA organized a discussion on access to effective legal representation in capital cases and as well as actions parliamentarians can take to address this issue in their countries and globally. Among the distinguished participants was PGA Executive Committee member Hon. Kasthuri Patto, MP (Malaysia). At the event, PGA and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty launched the [Parliamentary Factsheet on the Death Penalty and Access to Effective Legal Representation](#) as a practical tool to guide legislators.

As part of PGA's advocacy against the death penalty in **Ecuador**, the PGA National Group of Ecuador and the Parliamentary Group on Human Rights of the National Assembly organized a virtual seminar on "[The Death Penalty in the Americas: A Problem of the past?](#)" The event was moderated by the Dip. Soledad Buendía, Chair of the PGA National Group of Ecuador and founding member of PGA's [Parliamentary Rapid Response Team](#) (PARRT). Legislators discussed the status of the death penalty in the region and how to reaffirm its abolition or, in respect of Caribbean States, promote it while advancing a moratorium, utilizing



the lessons learned from the positive advances made in other countries in recent years.

In her welcoming remarks, Dip. Doris Solis, President of the Parliamentary Group on Human Rights, warned that, even if the South American countries abolished the death penalty, it could return and that everyone should remain vigilant.

So that constituents may better understand the death penalty, Dip. Buendía [wrote an op-ed](#) reminding the readers that the United States is the only country on the American continent that continues to carry-out executions.

"Every victim has a right to see the person responsible held to account in a court of law; but the death penalty is not justice, it is revenge. Executing the murderer does not bring back the victim, it cannot make whole what has been broken. We often say an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind and it is very true. We must support victims, but the death penalty creates new victims."

– Hon. Dorcas Sibanda, MP (Zimbabwe)



"I am delighted that Chad has now joined abolitionist States. I hope that our decision, and the years of work that preceded it, will inspire my fellow colleague parliamentarians around the world, and particularly in the Sahel. The death penalty has no deterrent effect on the attacks led against us; but its abolition is the symbol of our commitment to the very human rights those groups wish to deny us."

– Hon. Théophile Yombombé, 3rd Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and PGA member

14 **CAMPAIGN FOR THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

The Campaign for the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Rome Statute or RS Campaign) seeks to promote a stronger universal culture of upholding the Rule of Law, human rights, and human dignity by contributing to ending impunity and advancing access to justice for victims of international crimes – namely genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression – by supporting the universality of the Rome Statute via ratification and/or accession by Non-Party States and incorporating the Statute’s norms and principles in national legal frameworks through full domestic implementation.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In early 2020, Kiribati became the [123rd State Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC](#) with the entry into force of the [ratification](#) that had occurred in 2019 thanks to the leadership initiative of a PGA Member, former Minister of Justice Hon. Natan Teewe Brechtefeld, MP.



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

PLAY VIDEO

In January 2020, PGA participated in the Informal Consultations on the creation of a new [Multilateral Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes](#), also known as the Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Convention. Participants included representatives and legal experts from over 70 countries as well as members of civil society and academia. PGA expressed full support of the initiative, which shall ensure that cooperation between States in combating impunity for atrocity-crimes shall be upgraded at a minimum to inter-State cooperation in counter-terrorism and anti-corruption. In doing so, States will have a new incentive to comply with the highest standards and principles of international criminal law in their domestic legislation. PGA therefore urged negotiations on the Convention to move forward to reinforce in the global movement against impunity.

Throughout 2020, member-parliamentarians, with the support of the PGA Secretariat, used their legislative prerogatives to introduce and advance legislation on domestic implementation of the Rome Statute system.

In **Ukraine**, as a result of the engagement of Lawmakers inspired by the indefatigable leadership of PGA Executive Committee member Hryhoriy Nemyria MP, [Bill no. 2689](#) was approved by the Committee on Legislative Support of Law Enforcement of the parliament, harmonizing the criminal code with international criminal law and international humanitarian law. PGA and its Ukrainian civil society partner, the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL), co-organized several seminars and diplomatic briefings throughout the year. These advocacy efforts culminated in September 2020 when the Parliament of Ukraine [passed in its first reading draft law no. 2689 “On amendments to certain legislative acts on the Enforcement of International Criminal and Humanitarian Law,”](#) with 271 of 347 votes in favor. PGA was actively involved in supporting the drafting process of the bill, which was authored by Hon. Denys Monastyrskyi, Chairperson of the Law Enforcement Committee and PGA Member. PGA also mobilized legislators in the country to galvanize political will in support of the Bill. In December 2020, the PGA Secretariat received a request for technical assistance and prepared a comprehensive legal opinion to the Law Enforcement Committee as it was preparing the final adoption of the bill.



5-7 FEBRUARY 2020: PARTICIPATION IN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE SESSION AND ROUNDTABLE ON THE LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN RADA OF UKRAINE.

PGA members in Latin America also requested technical assistance to draft bills to implement crimes and principles under the Rome Statute domestically. In **Honduras**, PGA shared a tailored draft cooperation law based on its Reference Law with PGA Executive Committee member Dip. Jorge Cáliz, MP. The draft will be introduced in 2021 to the National Congress, after consultation with parliamentary colleagues from pertinent Committees. After much [advocacy and technical consultations](#) with PGA and Dip. Tucapel Jiménez (Chile), chair of PGA’s International Council, **Chile** sent a [draft cooperation bill to the House of Deputies](#) in May 2020. It is being examined by the nation’s Supreme Court.

The PGA Secretariat also provided technical assistance on the drafting of comprehensive legislation to implement the obligations of the Rome Statute of the ICC at the request of parliamentarians in **Ghana** and **Tunisia**.



PARLIAMENTARY MOROCCAN DELEGATION VISIT TO THE HAGUE:
 HON. MOHAMMED BANJALLOUN, MP, HON. AMINA MAELAININE, MP,
 HON. ZOHOUR EL-WAHABI, MP, HON. FATIMA ZAHRA BARASSAT, MP

PGA organized visits to the ICC and other pertinent institutions in the Hague to raise awareness and understanding of the international criminal law framework and the Rome Statute system. A delegation of legislators from **Morocco** – including Hon. Amina Maelainine, member of the Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee and PGA’s Executive Committee – [met with ICC officials](#) in February 2020. A delegation from **Zimbabwe** [met with the Hague-based Court officials](#) in early March 2020, led by Hon. Dorcas Sibanda, Member of the Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee and chair of the PGA National Group of Zimbabwe. The group included members of the Committees on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and of Defense, Home Affairs and Security Services.

To counter the politically motivated detractors of the ICC and subsequent steps to withdraw from the Rome Statute, PGA [conducted a field mission](#) to **South Africa** in March 2020 to meet with the Deputy Minister of Justice, the Chairman of the Committee on Justice and Correctional Services and several members of the ruling party, African National Congress (ANC), as well as opposition parties. The discussions centered on issues driving South Africa to withdraw from the Rome Statute and led to productive exchanges, offering opportunities to address several inaccurate conceptions regarding the ICC. The field mission allowed PGA to determine the best strategies to counter withdrawal narratives and policies prior to the ANC’s mid-term policy review at its National General Council meeting as well as the 55th ANC National Conference in December 2022.

In the **Philippines** – the largest State to withdraw from the Rome Statute, through a constitutionally-challenged Presidential decision – PGA supported its members and peer-parliamentarians to build a coalition of lawmakers for the “re-ratification” of the Statute as soon as a new Administration assumes power.

Further, to respond to unprecedented attacks against the ICC Office of the Prosecutor by the US Trump Administration, PGA mobilized its members in the **United States** and throughout the world to issue firm and consistent statements, [including from Rep. Jim McGovern](#), to preserve the integrity and independence

of the judicial and prosecutorial organs of the Rome Statute system. The engagement of PGA members from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, MENA and Europe (including the European Parliament) with their US peers yielded important results. A series of powerful statements and tweets were made by US Lawmakers asking for a reversal of the Trump Administration policy against the ICC.



REP. JAMES MCGOVERN ON THE USA'S
 POSITION ON THE ROME STATUTE
 SYSTEM AGAINST IMPUNITY

In May 2020, PGA members initiated and contributed to a formal session of the European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Human Rights with the ICC Prosecutor, Ms. Fatou Bensouda, on the occasion of her 9th (and final) year of her non-renewable mandate. PGA members Fabio Massimo Castaldo MEP (Italy, Vice-President of the EP in charge of human rights and democracy), Juan Fernando López Aguilar MEP (Spain) Chair of the Justice and Civil Liberties Committee and Dr. Hanna Neumann MEP (Germany), Vice Chair of European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Human Rights and founding member of PGA’s PARRT, joined their colleagues in expressing support for the independent exercise of the prosecutorial and judicial functions that the Rome Statute attributes to ICC organs.

PGA co-hosted a panel discussion on existing limits to the Security Council veto power when dealing with atrocity crimes in September 2020. The event was co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Costa Rica, The Netherlands, and Sierra Leone. The discussion emphasized that, in the face of mass atrocity crimes threatening international peace and security, and exacerbated by the COVID-19 global pandemic, – the international community can no longer afford to fail the victims of such crimes because of the veto power of the Permanent members of the Security Council.

In July 2020, PGA met virtually with parliamentarians from **Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia** to [discuss and exchange ideas on the fight against impunity](#) in their respective countries and the entire Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) region. The participants agreed to keep working and collaborating to improve the legal framework for the fight against impunity in their respective countries and region.

The achievements of PGA have been recognized by the ICC and its Assembly of States Parties in their 2020 reports on [complementarity](#), [universality](#) and [cooperation](#).

[11th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law \(CAP-ICC\)](#)

On 19-20 November 2020, PGA and its National Group in The Netherlands co-hosted the 11th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC). For the first time in PGA’s 40-plus years history, the CAP-ICC was held virtually due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The two-day international conference provided a space for the 148 participants – including 85 parliamentarians from 41 countries across the world – to engage in a critical dialogue on the essential aspects of the Rome Statute system and discuss the future of the ICC.



“Although the veto power is exercised by the Executive branch, parliamentarians have significant prerogatives to not only legislate, but also control the actions of the Executive branch, especially in countries that sit on the Security Council. Parliamentarians are the bridge between the Executive branch and constituencies. They can raise awareness on issues stemming from the unrestrained use of the veto”

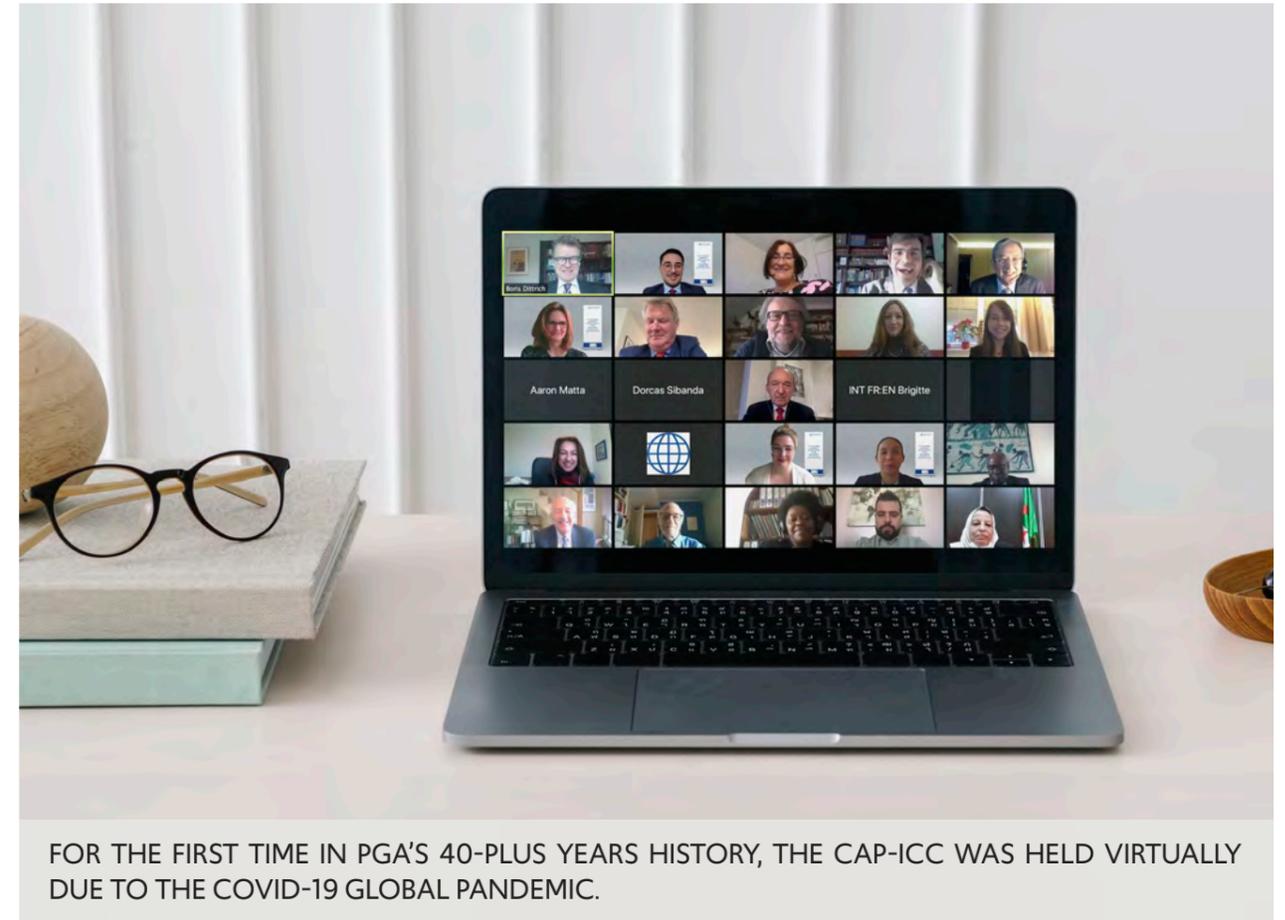
– Dep. Amina Maelainine (Morocco), and PGA Executive Committee member

Dep. Béatrice Epaye (Central African Republic), Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee and PGA Executive Committee member, described the ICC’s positive impact on strengthening the domestic Rule of Law, even though her country is facing a severe political and security crisis.

Hon. Salih Mahmoud Osman, former opposition MP (Sudan), explained his country’s transition after the dictatorship of Mr. Al-Bashir and the positive role played by the ICC intervention in respect of the mass atrocities committed in Darfur towards the progressive marginalization of the President since he was indicted by the ICC for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Despite the fragility of the judicial apparatus in both the **Central African Republic** and **Sudan**, progress has been made toward accountability and capacity-building at the domestic level as a result of the strong cooperation of the ICC. However, in CAR political will for justice as factor of stabilization must be sustained by the International Community in the face of attempts by several actors to obtain impunity under purported “peace deals” which have created an incentive for the resumption of the armed conflict in the electoral period at the end of 2020.

The CAP-ICC concluded with the adoption of a [Plan of Action on the Universality, Effectiveness and Integrity of the Rome Statute system against impunity](#), through which participants agreed to pursue a number of action points to further advance the universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute system of the ICC in their respective jurisdictions. PGA members will continue supporting the ICC and its mandate, as well as States Parties, including by encouraging the Executive branch in their countries to nominate candidates for ICC judicial position on merit-based considerations, in accordance with the Rome Statute and the best practices of regional human rights bodies.



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PGA’S 40-PLUS YEARS HISTORY, THE CAP-ICC WAS HELD VIRTUALLY DUE TO THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC.

Following the CAP-ICC, PGA and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) co-hosted a [virtual webinar](#) on [improving the system for the nomination and election of judges at the ICC](#) , offering a unique opportunity to identify a way forward to ensure merit-based and transparent elections. Participants included leading experts, civil society organizations, members of parliament, and the media. Ms. Petra Bayr, MP (Austria), Member of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights and PGA Executive Committee Member, emphasized candidates must fulfill Rome Statute requirements to be elected as a judge of the ICC.

PGA participated in the [19th Assembly of States Parties \(ASP\)](#) from 14-16 and 17-23 December 2020, including in its second resumption of proceedings of 12 February 2021, when the third prosecutor of the ICC has been elected. In December 2020, PGA co-organized two side-events to the Assembly in which all participants from Civil Society, States and ICC organs paid a tribute to the legacy of former PGA Board Member Dr. Felipe Michelini, whose sudden death occurred in April 2020 when he was serving as President of the Board of Directors of the ICC Trust Fund for Victims.

Dr. Michelini, a champion of human rights, was truly devoted to the thorough review and reform of the Rome Statute system: Therefore, the PGA side-event co-organized with the Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN and the Victims’ Rights Working Group [analyzed the findings and recommendations](#) of the Independent Expert Review (IER) of the ICC and the Rome Statute system, commissioned by the ASP and presided by Justice Richard Goldstone of South Africa.

PGA remained engaged through the entire year 2020 to advocate for the independence of this important exercise, to which PGA made written submissions. The IER report is now the most important starting point to bring about significant institutional reforms in the Rome Statute system against impunity.

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

The Campaign for the Protection of the Oceans and Implementation of SDG 14 (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 includes the [Project on Ending Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported \(IUU\) Fishing](#) and the [Project on Increasing Sustainability of Small-Scale Fisheries \(SSF\)](#). PGA's Oceans Campaign 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 (C188), which are collectively known as the Three Treaties to End Illegal Fishing.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2020, PGA followed up on the commitments taken by parliamentarians at the first International Parliamentary Oceans Day convened by PGA in November 2019 in the National Assembly of Cape Verde. Sixty parliamentarians from the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia participated in discussions on the ratification of the Cape Town Agreement to end human rights abuses in the seafood industry, the necessity to support increased sustainability in small-scale fisheries and the importance of regulating the high seas for long-term marine conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. These commitments are outlined in the [Praia Plan of Action](#). PGA's growing network of "Oceans Champions" is taking significant action on these commitments at the national level.

In early March 2020, PGA held an in-person briefing in the Parliament of **South Africa** on [Maritime Governance and Sustainable Development](#). The event, chaired by Hon. Fikile Xasa, MP, Chair of the Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries and PGA Member, discussed ways to improve maritime governance in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: *Life Under Water*.

Participants included members of the Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries; the Select Committee on Land Reform, Environment, Mineral Resources and Energy; the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities as well as MPs representing local provinces. The discussions focused on the implementation of the 3 international maritime governance treaties. South Africa serves as a model because it has ratified the 3 treaties and is therefore in a position to share lessons learned and best practices with other countries.



BRIEFING IN THE PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA ON THE NEED TO FIGHT IUU FISHING AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE SMALL SCALE-FISHERIES

Also in March 2020, PGA published on its website and distributed to member parliamentarians a [Letter from the President on the High Seas Treaty](#) (officially referred to as Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction-ABNJ) with a call to action and PGA's [informational brochure](#).

In partnership with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), PGA published a [Law and Governance Toolkit for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries \(SSF\)](#) that provides a methodology for assessing the reform needs to strengthen SSF governance, and examples of model legal language that can be used to form the basis of regulatory reforms.



DOWNLOAD

LAW AND GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT FOR SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES - BEST REGULATORY PRACTICES

In May 2020, the PGA National Group of **Ecuador** [convened its first meeting of the year](#) to discuss the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding urgency to conserve marine resources. The discussion on the ability of small-scale fisheries to generate high levels of economic security while still establishing a strong and efficient regulatory framework to ensure environmental sustainability, resulted in the identification of 6 public policy tools that can be tailored to each country. These tools form an important part of the [Parliamentary Toolkit for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries](#) described above. Participants concluded with a commitment to dedicate meaningful portions of their legislative activity to the regulation of small-scale fisheries in the future. A follow up meeting with the Commission on Biodiversity and Natural Resources of the National Assembly of Ecuador was held in November 2020.

The virtual briefing explored the urgent need to mobilize support for [small-scale fisheries to secure the livelihoods of coastal communities amid the COVID-19 pandemic](#) and was moderated by Secretary Luis Gutiérrez Ramírez and Commission President Asambleísta Alberto Zambrano. Participants included Minister of the Environment and Water, the Minister of Urban Development and Housing, as well as a representative of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.



ASAMBLEISTA SOLEDAD BUENDÍA, CHAIRPERSON OF THE PGA NATIONAL GROUP IN ECUADOR

PGA built upon its strategy to facilitate accession to the Cape Town Agreement used successfully in [Sao Tomé and Príncipe in 2019](#) to begin the process in the [Maldives](#). In October 2020, PGA Executive Committee Member Hon. Rozaina Adam, MP engaged in a series of discussions on the benefits of CTA ratification with the Maldivian Minister of Fisheries. The Minister formally responded by informing PGA that the Maldives Transport Authority (the implementing agency of the CTA in the Maldives) submitted a formal Intent to Sign document to the International Maritime Organization.

As pandemic-related challenges arose throughout 2020, PGA members continued to inform their peers and government officials of the increasingly urgent need for the entry into force of the CTA, and its utility to address both IUU fishing and protect fishers from hazardous working conditions aboard commercial fishing vessels. PGA also published [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#) translations of PGA's [Parliamentary Toolkit on Ending IUU Fishing](#). PGA provided technical assistance to MPs resulting in parliamentary questions being posed in Chile and Sweden; and followed up on the series of questions posed in 2019 to Austria, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Malaysia, Pakistan, São Tomé and Príncipe and Sweden. PGA provided technical assistance to Dip. Tucapel Jiménez Fuentes, Chair of the PGA National Group of Chile and acting Chair of the PGA International Council, to [pose a second parliamentary question](#) in October 2020 on the progress made towards ratification of the Cape Town Agreement, following Chile's signature to the Torremolinos Declaration.

PGA participated in the United Nation's World Oceans Day on 8 June 2020. The theme – *Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean* – allowed PGA to highlight the unique role Parliamentarians play in achieving the SDGs, as [Parliamentarians can create innovative solutions through their capacity as law and policymakers](#).

For more sustainable oceans, it is necessary to not only ratify and implement existing international treaties, but to also identify any legal loopholes and develop new international regulations to address them comprehensively.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY PROGRAMME

16

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 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 (ATT). As of December 2020, PGA contributed to the ratification by [51] of the 110 States Parties to the ATT, a treaty that PGA Members called for through a global parliamentary petition presented to the UN Secretary-General in 2013.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA held a [Regional South and South East Asia Parliamentary Workshop Promoting Engagement of Women Parliamentarians in Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons](#) in the Parliament of Malaysia in January 2020. It served as an invaluable opportunity for participants, including 10 MPs from Malaysia and Pakistan as well as the EU Ambassador to Malaysia and the UNDP Resident Representative for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, to share national and regional experiences, exchange best practices and importantly, identify different ways to increase involvement of women decision-makers in SALW decision-making processes. The Kuala Lumpur Plan of Action, adopted at the conclusion of the workshop, will facilitate follow-up action in 2021.

In July 2020, Hon. Béatrice Epaye, MP ([Central African Republic](#)), PGA Executive Committee member, actively participated in the deliberations in the National Assembly, leading to the adoption of [new legislation governing Conventional Weapons, Their Parts, Components and Munitions](#). The law will be instrumental in supporting the fight against illicit arms trafficking in the country and region.

Also in July 2020, [São Tomé and Príncipe](#) [ratified the Arms Trade Treaty](#), becoming the 108th State Party to the ATT. It was the culmination of 3 years of parliamentary outreach and advocacy by Dep. Levy Nazaré, Vice-President of the National Assembly and PGA Executive Committee Member.

[Niue](#) [acceded to the ATT](#) (as well as the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon) in August 2020, becoming the 110th State Party to the ATT. PGA has worked to sensitize MPs in Niue since 2018, when it was an active participant in PGA's [Regional Pacific Islands](#)



MALAYSIAN DELEGATION, (LEFT TO RIGHT): HON. RUSNAH BINTI ALUAI, MP; HON. KASTHURI PATTO, MP, PGA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER; AND HON. MINISTER TERESA KOK

[Workshop Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Encouraging Greater and More Effective Participation by Women Parliamentarians in Defence and Security](#) held in Samoa.

Lastly, PGA partnered with 5 other prominent organizations – *Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)*, *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*, *Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)*, *Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW)*, *World Future Council (WFC)* and the *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)* – to create a [Parliamentary Handbook on Disarmament](#).

Launched in November 2020, the handbook sets goals and practical measures across a range of disarmament issues, including weapons of mass destruction, outer space, conventional weapons and future weapon technologies. Most importantly, the handbook makes connections between disarmament and sustainable development (including climate protection), provides examples of effective policies and parliamentary action and offers recommendations for further parliamentary action.



 **DOWNLOAD**

**ASSURING OUR COMMON FUTURE
- A GUIDE TO PARLIAMENTARY ACTION
IN SUPPORT OF DISARMAMENT
FOR SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY PROGRAMME

17

CAMPAIGN FOR BIOLOGICAL SECURITY AND HEALTH

The Campaign for Biological Security and Health seeks to contribute to a reduction in the proliferation and threat posed by Biological Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). Parliamentarians have a number of key roles and functions to play in this arena, including advocating for universality and implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC); annual Confidence Building Measures (CBM) declarations by States Parties, draft bills of legislation to implement the BWC into domestic law, advocating for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) into domestic law; advocating for, and preparation of draft Bills of Legislation to implement UNSCR 1540 into national law; advocating for compliance with the national reporting requirements under UNSCR 1540 (2004); and exercising their oversight and accountability prerogatives to promote Executive compliance with this framework of international treaties and agreement.

During the last five years, PGA contributed to the ratification of the BWC by 9 States, a treaty that has 183 States Parties. PGA cooperates with the [Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction](#), a G7-led, 31-member international initiative aimed at preventing the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) weapons and related materials.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Chile [passed domestic implementing legislation](#) for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) in July 2020. PGA has worked with Hon. Tucapel Jiménez, MP and Chair of PGA's International Council to advocate for the bill since 2018.



DIP. TUCAPEL JIMÉNEZ (CHILE), CHAIR OF PGA'S INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

PGA organized with CRDF Global a [virtual workshop](#) to address the challenges of COVID-19 in Southeast Asia through Implementation of Existing International Biosecurity and Biosafety Frameworks in September 2020. Attended by 13 MPs from **Malaysia** and **Indonesia**, participants discussed domestic, regional and international public health and biosecurity and biosafety priorities, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic and developed urgent solution-finding processes. The workshop concluded with the adoption of [Plan of Action on The Role of Parliamentarians in Addressing the Challenges of COVID-19 through Implementation of Existing International Biosecurity and Biosafety Frameworks](#).

A second virtual workshop was held in collaboration with CRDF Global in October 2020 with Members of **Somalia's** Parliament. The resulting Plan of Action on the Role of Somali Parliamentarians in Promoting Biological Security, Biosafety and Bio Risk Management Best Practices – in [English](#) and [Somali](#) – will facilitate follow-up action in 2021.

The [Parliamentary Handbook on Disarmament](#) mentioned above contains a significant section on the Biological Weapons Convention and its relevance in the context of **COVID-19 and other pandemics**.

After outreach to the member-parliamentarians in **Honduras**, the country became the 50th State to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in October 2020. [Sensitized PGA member-parliamentarians followed up in Congress](#), where the matter was still pending; it subsequently endorsed ratification of the TPNW.

18

INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY PROGRAMME

CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF THE NEGOTIATION OF A TREATY PROHIBITING FULLY AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS

The Fully Autonomous Weapons Campaign (FAW) was launched in 2020 and seeks to obtain MP-signatories from 80+ countries to PGA's Declaration on Prohibition of Fully Autonomous Weapons. PGA is also an active member of the global NGO coalition, significantly called "Stop Killers Robots."

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The [Global Parliamentary Declaration in Support of the Negotiation of a Treaty Prohibiting Fully Autonomous Weapons](#) was signed by PGA MPs in over 30 countries worldwide.



Additionally, over 100 countries have expressed support to PGA for establishing a new international law instrument aimed at retaining some form of human control over weapons systems and the use of force.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

PGA audited accounts are available upon request.

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