



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

# 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT

**MOBILIZING LEGISLATORS  
AS CHAMPIONS FOR HUMAN  
RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND A  
SUSTAINABLE WORLD**



# CONTENTS

- 01 President's Message
- 02 2021 Events and Strategic Actions
- 03 About Us / Vision / Mission / Theory of Change
- 04 Our Programmes and Campaigns
- 05 Membership Overview
- 06 Membership by Country
- 07 Membership World Map
- 08 Executive Committee / International Council / PGA Secretariat / UN Advisory Committee / Development Advisory Committee
- 09 Core Campaign on Democratic Renewal and Human Rights
  - Gender, Equality & Inclusion Programme**
  - 10 Campaign to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM Campaign)
  - 11 Campaign Against Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI Campaign)
  - 12 Campaign for a Human Rights-based Approach to Climate Action
  - International Law & Human Rights Programme**
  - 13 Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty (ADP Campaign)
  - 14 Campaign for the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Rome Statute Campaign)
  - 15 Campaign for the Protection of the Oceans and Implementation of SDG 14 (Oceans Campaign)
  - International Peace & Security Programme**
  - 16 Campaign Addressing the Threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction
    - 16A Campaign for Biological Security and Health
    - 16B Campaign to Promote Nuclear and Radiological Security
    - 16C Global Cybersecurity Initiative
  - 17 Campaign to Address the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and to Promote the Arms Trade Treaty
- 18 Partners and Donors
- 19 Financial Report

## 01 — PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



PGA President  
Hon. Kasthuri Patto, MP (Malaysia)

### Dear Friends of PGA,

Why am I a PGA member?

I have realized over the years that lawmakers alone cannot bring the necessary amendments to existing laws and policies without the support, expertise and network of other lawmakers. PGA inspires and helps us aspire to be a beacon of hope, protector and defender of human rights, upholding universal values of democracy, freedom, justice, equality and good governance.

And that is precisely where PGA comes in – as a sanctuary of brilliant minds and experts in a multitude of fields, from working with lawmakers to bring war criminals to justice, ending crimes against humanity, promoting gender inclusiveness, upholding and reviving democracy, ending the death penalty, advancing disarmament and the arms trade treaty, and protecting the oceans. PGA remains a crucial partner to lawmakers all over the world to share resources; to provide a platform for discourse and engagement with fellow MPs, civil society, and government agencies; and to assist and support parliamentarians in the PGA campaigns that they are championing.

The global 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 and will only worsen if unchecked. In a climate of fear, marginalized sectors of society already living in precarious circumstances are confronting further alienation and victimization.

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.

Democratic principles worldwide are under attack 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. PGA 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. 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.

In response to the lessons learned from an evaluation of our work in 2021, from the wisdom of our member-parliamentarians and partners and from the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic, our new three-year strategic plan (2022-2024) focuses on **empowering and mobilizing legislators as champions for human rights, democracy and a sustainable world.**

There are several areas where the external environment in which PGA works to achieve Campaign



priorities has evolved or retrogressed significantly since our previous 2019-2021 strategy was developed. This new plan recognizes the change in context and focuses our next steps to ensure that progress continues, starts or re-starts, depending on the situation in a given target country and other factors.

In addition to the central work of our nine Campaigns described in this report, PGA will emphasize several important themes as it marches into the future:

- Ensuring that our countries ratify and fully implement the international treaties that our global network has been supporting in its 43 years of history, which are so crucial to provide effective guarantees against human rights abuses and other violations of International Law, as well as make our planet a better and more secure place for us and future generations;
- Protecting democracy and contributing to an enabling environment for parliamentarians to fulfil their mandates and take action on PGA Campaign goals;
- Partnerships with the international community to contribute to Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development;
- Parliamentary partner to civil society; and
- Commitment to inclusion, accountability, transparency and achieving gender equality and parity as well as the empowerment of women and girls.

While nothing can replace the important peer-to-peer learning and sharing of best practices that take place when we meet in person, PGA, nevertheless, convened a very successful 42nd Annual Forum on a virtual platform: Day 1 addressed **“The Antidote to Authoritarianism: Parliamentarians as champions of democratic principles and institutions,”** and provided an opportunity for exchanges between legislators and experts on how to address attacks on democracy and ways and means to prevent and counter such attacks. Parliamentarians met on Day 2 of the Annual Forum for the second **International Parliamentary Oceans Day** to explore creative solutions towards protecting the rights and safety of those working in the fishing industry, while at the same time conserving our oceans to build resilience to climate change, maintain essential biodiversity and support the air we breathe. Our special thanks go to the National Assembly of Belize for co-hosting the event. We hope to meet with you **in person** at the 43rd PGA Annual Forum in November 2022.

All this would not have been possible without the leadership of Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP (Sweden), who ended her term as PGA President on 31 December 2021. Margareta is a tireless and effective champion of PGA Campaigns and values. We are grateful for her contributions and wish her well in her new role as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Finally, my utmost gratitude – and a big “thank you” – to our invaluable network of parliamentarians and our steadfast partners and friends. With your help, we have achieved the significant results described in this 2021 Annual Report.

I look forward to working with you in 2022 to contribute to PGA's vision of *a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe, sustainable and democratic world!*

My very best,

**Hon. Kasthuri Patto, MP (Malaysia)**

# 2021 EVENTS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

GENDER, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY PROGRAMME

DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
<b>3 FEB</b>	PGA participation in European Parliament strategic consultation on the “Solidarity with Parliamentarians” Project <i>(DRHR Campaign)</i>	European Parliament, Brussels
<b>8 FEB</b>	PGA’s virtual attendance as observer in the 2nd resumed session of the 19th Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute (agenda item Election of the Third ICC Prosecutor 2021-29) <i>(Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)</i>	UN HQ, NY, United States
<b>18 FEB</b>	How Parliamentarians can support at-risk human rights defenders - panel discussion on the Documentary Film NASRIN to explore concrete actions parliamentarians can take to protect human rights defenders <i>(DRHR Campaign)</i>	Virtual
<b>18 FEB</b>	Meeting between Kenyan PGA members and Civil Society Representatives on eliminating Harmful Practices in Kenya, in collaboration with Girls Not Brides <i>(CEFM Campaign)</i>	In-person (Parliament of Kenya, Nairobi)
<b>24 FEB</b>	The Role of Parliamentarians in Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Promoting a Ban on Fully Autonomous Weapons <i>(Biological Security &amp; Health, Prohibiting FAWs)</i>	Virtual
<b>25 FEB</b>	Strengthening Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries, co-sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute <i>(Protection of the Oceans)</i>	Virtual
<b>2 MAR</b>	Foreign Affairs Committee’s hearing on bill for the ratification of the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the ICC on the crime of aggression and war crimes – Expert testimony by PGA’s Secretary-General, commentaries and questions by Committee Members, including PGA Italy National Group members <i>(Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)</i>	Chamber of Deputies, Rome, Italy
<b>1 MAR</b>	Fifth meeting of the Parliamentary Rapid Response Team (PARRT) to discuss the situation in Myanmar <i>(DRHR Campaign)</i>	Virtual

**19 MAR**

[PGA International Council Meeting](#)

Virtual

**24 MAR**

[Women Leaders as Advocates for Equality and Inclusion of LGBTI Persons, side event to the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\) 65th Session, in collaboration with the Missions of Argentina, Chile, Denmark, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United States to the UN, Copenhagen 2021, Outright Action International and Denmark LGBT+ \(SOGI Campaign\)](#)

Virtual

**31 MAR**

[8th session of the Middle East and North Africa Working Group on the Fight against Impunity: Promoting Accountability Mechanisms and the Effective Implementation of the Rome Statute \(Part II\) \(Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign\)](#)

Virtual session with MPs from Iraq and Jordan

**6 APR**

[How Parliamentarians can Champion Human Rights Defenders, Protect and Realise Human Rights and Hold Governments to Account, panel discussion on the Documentary Film NASRIN – Co-hosted by the New Zealand Parliament \(DRHR Campaign\)](#)

Hybrid, New Zealand Parliament, Wellington

**8 APR**

[Catalysts, Campaigners and Champions of Change – Convening, Mobilizing and Enabling Women Parliamentarians in Africa in Addressing Needs Identified in Requests for International Assistance in 2018 National Reports on the Implementation of the UN PoA to Pr \(SALW/ATT Campaign\)](#)

Virtual

**9 APR**

[ECOWAS Parliamentary Workshop on the Fight Against Impunity for Mass Atrocities under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court \(ICC\) and Promotion of the Rule of Law – co-hosted by the PGA Nigeria National Group \(Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign\)](#)

Hybrid, Parliament of Nigeria, Abuja

**21 APR**

[The Role of Parliamentarians in Preventing Pandemics - Parliamentary Universal Engagement Bio Legislative Observatory \(PUEBLO\) \(SALW/ATT Campaign\)](#)

Virtual

**22 APR**

[Roundtable on Forced Marriage as a Crime Against Humanity: The Role of Parliamentarians in Implementation into Domestic Law. Event co-organised with Women’s Initiative for Gender Justice \(Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign / CEFM Campaign\)](#)

Virtual

**28 APR**

[Parliamentary Panel on Legislative Reform and Protective Measures on SOGI during UNDP’s “Being LGBTI in the Caribbean” Regional Dialogue \(SOGI Campaign\)](#)

Virtual

**6 MAY**

PGA consultation with the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General to contribute to the process of elaboration of the UNSG report entitled “Our Common Agenda”: challenges for the UN system 75 years after the adoption of the UN Charter

Virtual

<b>13 MAY</b>	<a href="#">The Role of Parliamentarians in Atrocity Prevention, co-organized by the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies</a> (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Virtual
<b>20 MAY</b>	<a href="#">Parliamentary Workshop on the implementation of International Standards to fight against Impunity for Atrocity Crimes – PGA Latin American Working Group on the fight against impunity</a> (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Virtual
<b>26 MAY</b>	<a href="#">Catalysts, Campaigners, and Champions of Change - Convening Mobilizing and Enabling Women Parliamentarians in South Asia in Addressing Needs Identified in Requests for International Assistance in 2020 National Reports on the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and the International Tracing Instrument</a> (SALW/ATT Campaign)	Virtual
<b>3 JUN</b>	<a href="#">Technical working meeting to strengthen Cooperation with the International Criminal Court, organized by the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Organization of American States</a> (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Washington DC, Santiago, Chile
<b>10 JUN</b>	<a href="#">PGA Ecuador National Group Meeting following Ecuador's February 2021 general elections</a>	Quito, Ecuador
<b>11 JUN</b>	<a href="#">PGA Honduras National Group meeting on anti-discrimination project of law, in collaboration with local LGBTI organization Somos CDC</a> (SOGI Campaign)	Virtual
<b>16 JUN</b>	<a href="#">African Regional Meeting with Members of Parliament in African States that are Non-States Parties to ICSANT and/or CPPNM and/or its Amendment</a> (Nuclear and Radiological Security Campaign)	Virtual
<b>18 JUN</b>	<a href="#">Meeting of PGA UN Advisory Committee</a>	Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN, New York
<b>22 JUN</b>	<a href="#">PGA participating at MLA consultation on Parts 1-4 of the Draft Convention (Initiative for a new Multilateral Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes)</a> (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Virtual
<b>30 JUN</b>	<a href="#">International Day of Parliamentarism</a>	
<b>13 JUL</b>	<a href="#">Regional Parliamentary Webinar to Promote Universality and Implementation of The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime in Africa</a> (Global Cybersecurity Initiative)	Virtual

<b>13-15 JUL</b>	<a href="#">Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Suzi Barbosa, MP and PGA member (Guinea-Bissau) in the margins of High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF)</a>	Virtual
<b>16 JUL</b>	<a href="#">United in Support of International Justice – Series of events to celebrate the International Justice Day</a> (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Virtual
<b>16-17 JUL</b>	<a href="#">PGA statement and call for action to mark the 23rd anniversary of the Rome Statute of the ICC</a> (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Virtual
<b>20 AUG</b>	<a href="#">Interparliamentary Assembly of Copenhagen 2021 WorldPride, co-organized by PGA</a> (SOGI Campaign)	Parliament of Denmark, Copenhagen
<b>26 AUG</b>	<a href="#">Meeting of African Parliamentarians' Forum on Gender and Sexual Diversity, in collaboration with UNDP</a> (SOGI Campaign)	Virtual
<b>26 AUG</b>	<a href="#">Protecting vulnerable fishing communities during a global pandemic: A briefing organized by the PGA National Group in Argentina</a> (Protection of the Oceans)	Virtual
<b>2 SEP</b>	<a href="#">PGA Regional Caribbean Parliamentary Webinar to Promote Nuclear and Radiological Security</a> (Nuclear and Radiological Security Campaign)	Virtual
<b>15 SEP</b>	<a href="#">Large-Scale Human Rights Violations in Afghanistan: What Can Be Done to Prevent Further Atrocities? (in cooperation with Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies)</a> (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Virtual
<b>15 SEP</b>	<a href="#">Summit for Democracy Kick-Off Meeting with Civil Society - U.S. Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development</a> (DRHR Campaign)	Virtual
<b>23 SEP</b>	<a href="#">Launch of the research report “Leadership for Inclusion: What skills and qualities do parliamentarians need to be able to promote inclusive change?” – hosted by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the Developmental Leadership Program and supported by PGA</a> (SOGI Campaign)	Virtual
<b>28 SEP</b>	<a href="#">Regional Parliamentary Webinar to Promote Universality and Implementation of The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime in the Caribbean/CARICOM Region</a> (Global Cybersecurity Initiative)	Virtual
<b>10 OCT</b>	<a href="#">19th World Day against the Death Penalty – PGA's contribution to a parliamentary factsheet on “The Death Penalty and Women/Gender”</a> (Abolition of the Death Penalty)	Virtual

<b>11 OCT</b>	International Day of the Girl (strategic outreach to PGA membership) (GEI Programme)	Virtual
<b>12-13 OCT</b>	Parliamentary Delegation of the Republic of Ghana to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Parliament of The Netherlands (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign / SOGI Campaign)	The Hague, Netherlands
<b>10-12 OCT</b>	25th Annual Forum 2000 Conference on Democracy and Human Rights - PGA Participation (DRHR Campaign)	Hybrid In-Person and Virtual
<b>19 OCT</b>	<u>Presentation by PGA President Hon. Kasthuri Patto, MP (Malaysia) at the IMO Asia Regional Webinar on the Ratification and Implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement for the Safety of Fishing Vessels</u> (Protection of the Oceans)	Virtual
<b>20 OCT</b>	Co-organization of event to commemorate the World Day Against the Death Penalty on <u>How to Work with Parliamentarians for the Abolition of the Death Penalty</u> " (English) (Abolition of the Death Penalty)	Virtual
<b>21 OCT</b>	Co-organization of event to commemorate the World Day against the Death Penalty on <u>"How to Work with Parliamentarians for the Abolition of the Death Penalty"</u> (French) (Abolition of the Death Penalty)	Virtual
<b>21 OCT</b>	GEI Program staff participates in the Biannual Global Equality Fund Stakeholders Meeting (GEI Programme)	Virtual
<b>26 OCT</b>	Regional Meeting with Members of Parliament in Asian States that are Non-States Parties to ICSANT and/or CPPNM and/or its Amendment. (Nuclear and Radiological Security Campaign)	Virtual
<b>1-12 NOV</b>	Monitor Conference of States Parties (COP) 26 on Climate Change (GEI Programme)	Virtual
<b>4 NOV</b>	<u>A Reflection on Afghanistan: How to Try to Prevent Violent Extremism and Human Rights Violations in the Region</u> (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Virtual
<b>8-10 NOV</b>	PGA participation in the World Forum for Democracy (DRHR Campaign)	Virtual
<b>10 NOV</b>	Latin America Regional Meeting with Members of Parliament in Latin American States that are Non-States Parties to ICSANT and/or CPPNM and/or its Amendment. (Nuclear and Radiological Security Campaign)	Virtual

<b>16 NOV</b>	<u>Global Action Against Mass Atrocities IV: Strengthening national efforts to address hate speech, discrimination and prevent incitement – Workshop hosted by PGA on "Women leaders legislating against racism, hate speech, and discrimination"</u> (DRHR Campaign)	Virtual
<b>22-25 NOV</b>	Attendance at 2020-2021 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (International Peace and Security Programme)	Virtual
<b>29-30 NOV</b>	PGA participating at MLA consultation on the remaining Parts of the Draft Convention (Initiative for a new Multilateral Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes) (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Virtual
<b>6-11 DEC</b>	PGA Delegation to the ASP and co-organization of relevant side-events, World Forum, The Hague, Netherlands (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Virtual / In-Person
<b>7 DEC</b>	<u>The Role of Parliamentarians in Promoting the Universality of the Rome Statute: The State of Play in Today's ICC</u> (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Virtual
<b>8 DEC</b>	<u>Regional Parliamentary Webinar to Promote Universality and Implementation of The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime in Asia/Pacific Region</u> (Global Cybersecurity Initiative)	Virtual
<b>9-10 DEC</b>	Summit for Democracy - U.S. Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (DRHR Campaign)	Virtual
<b>10 DEC</b>	<u>Reforming national nomination procedures for ICC judicial candidates: From the Independent Experts' Review (IER) report to action by the ASP</u> (Rome Statute of the ICC Campaign)	Virtual / In-Person
<b>15 DEC</b>	Implementation of International Biological Security Frameworks   Promoting Engagement between Somali Legislators, Somali Civil Society, the Somali Scientific Community and Public Health sector (International Peace and Security Programme)	Virtual
<b>16-17 DEC</b>	<u>PGA 42nd Annual Forum co-hosted by the Parliament of Belize – Day I (The Antidote to Authoritarianism: Parliamentarians as champions of democratic principles and institutions) and Day II (International Parliamentary Oceans Day)</u>	Virtual
<b>21 DEC</b>	<u>Biannual Strategic Meeting of the PGA United Nations Advisory Committee</u>	Mission of Switzerland to the UN

## VISION

To contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe, sustainable 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, gender equality and justice, including climate justice.

## 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.



### CORE CAMPAIGN: DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL AND 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, sustainable and democratic world”.

## GENDER, EQUALITY & INCLUSION PROGRAMME

PGA's GEI Programme focuses on connecting, inspiring and empowering parliamentarians around the world to fully protect and actively uphold and promote the human rights of those most vulnerable, including girls and women as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. The Programme advances these objectives through its three campaigns:



### 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).



### CAMPAIGN FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO CLIMATE ACTION (CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN)

In its pilot stage, this Campaign will sensitize and mobilize parliamentarians in the Caribbean around the [Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Participation, and Justice in Environmental Matters](#) as a tool to catalyze climate governance and action from a human rights-based approach in the region. This is the region's first environmental treaty as well as the world's first agreement with provisions on human rights defenders in environmental matters.

## INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

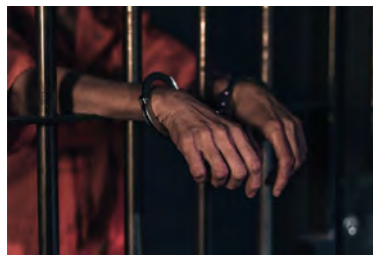
PGA's ILHR Programme focuses on mobilizing members of parliament around the world to support and promote the prevention of serious human rights violations, including international crimes, as well as promoting the accountability of perpetrators when they do occur. International crimes include genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. Violations of the right to life; the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment; and the right not to be subjected to slavery nor forced or compulsory labor are some examples of serious human rights violations.

The Programme advances these objectives through its three campaigns:



### **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.

## INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY PROGRAMME

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

The Programme advances its objectives through its five campaigns:



### **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 TO PROMOTE NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL SECURITY**

The NRS Campaign seeks to address the fact that a large number of States worldwide have yet to become States Parties and/or fully implement the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), its Amendment and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).



### **GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVE**

Cybersecurity and cyberattacks are a pervasive and complex phenomenon that have an increasing impact on the peaceful relations among States and the respect of the principles and norms of International Law, including the legal framework prohibiting WMD. The Global Cybersecurity Initiative seeks to address the fact that a large number of States worldwide have yet to become States Parties and/or fully implement the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.



### **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.



### **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.



## 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; and
- The Parliament must evidence an actual ability to engage in free debate and to question the Executive.

In 2021, PGA gained new members in **France, Luxembourg** and **Spain**.

<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS:</b>	<b>1,087</b>
<b>Male:</b>	<b>696</b>
<b>Female:</b>	<b>391</b>
<b>NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTS:</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS:</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>OBSERVER STATUS PARLIAMENTS:</b>	<b>5</b>

## MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY

### AFRICA (445 MEMBERS, 38 COUNTRIES)

Angola	2	<b>São Tomé and Príncipe *</b>	8
Benin	2	Senegal	13
Botswana	1	Seychelles	1
<b>Burkina Faso *</b>	15	Sierra Leone	8
Cameroon	6	Somalia	10
<b>Cape Verde *</b>	26	South Africa	20
<b>Central African Republic *</b>	29	South Sudan	3
Chad	5	<b>Tanzania *</b>	15
Comoros	1	Togo	1
Côte d'Ivoire	10	<b>Uganda *</b>	44
Djibouti	1	Zambia	2
DR Congo	37	<b>Zimbabwe *</b>	24
Eswatini	1		
Ethiopia	1	<b>MIDDLE EAST &amp; THE MEDITERRANEAN</b>	
Gabon	2	<b>(43 MEMBERS, 9 COUNTRIES)</b>	
<b>Gambia *</b>	10	Algeria	1
Ghana	32	<b>Iraq *</b>	11
Guinea Bissau	12	Jordan	5
Kenya	46	Lebanon	1
Liberia	3	Morocco	11
Madagascar	1	Oman	1
Malawi	7	Tunisia	6
Mauritania	1	Turkey	1
Mozambique	16	Yemen	7
<b>Namibia *</b>	6		
Niger	3		
<b>Nigeria *</b>	20		

\* denotes PGA National Group

**AMERICAS (257 MEMBERS, 26 COUNTRIES)**

Antigua & Barbuda	3
<b>Argentina *</b>	44
Barbados	5
Belize	8
Bolivia	1
Brazil	13
<b>Canada *</b>	14
<b>Chile *</b>	9
Colombia	8
Costa Rica	5
Dominican Republic	27
<b>Ecuador*</b>	16
El Salvador	5
Grenada	3
Guyana	1
<b>Honduras *</b>	21
Jamaica	3
Mexico	3
Panama	2
Paraguay	15
Saint Lucia	3
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	1
Suriname	6
Trinidad & Tobago	7
United States	13
<b>Venezuela *</b>	21

**ASIA (130 MEMBERS, 13 COUNTRIES)**

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

**THE PACIFIC (42 MEMBERS, 11 COUNTRIES)**

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

**EUROPE (169 MEMBERS, 28 COUNTRIES)**

<b>Albania *</b>	14
Armenia	1
Austria	2
Belgium	3
Denmark	12
Estonia	1
Finland	5
France	2
Georgia	1
Germany	2
Ireland	7
<b>Italy *</b>	10
Lithuania	1
Montenegro	2
<b>Netherlands *</b>	14
North Macedonia	3
Norway	7
Poland	3
Portugal	4
Romania	1
Serbia	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	1
Sweden	22
Switzerland	6
Ukraine	22
<b>United Kingdom *</b>	20

**REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS (30 MEMBERS, 5 REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS)**

ECOWAS Parliament	6
European Parliament	18
Pan-African Parliament	3
Parlacen	2
PARLATINO	1

**OBSERVER COUNTRIES (15 MEMBERS, 5 OBSERVER COUNTRIES)**

Aruba	1
Libya	1
Palestine	1
Somalia	10
Sudan	2

\* denotes PGA National Group

# MEMBERSHIP WORLD MAP

REGIONAL  
PARLIAMENTS

5

OBSERVER STATUS  
PARLIAMENTS

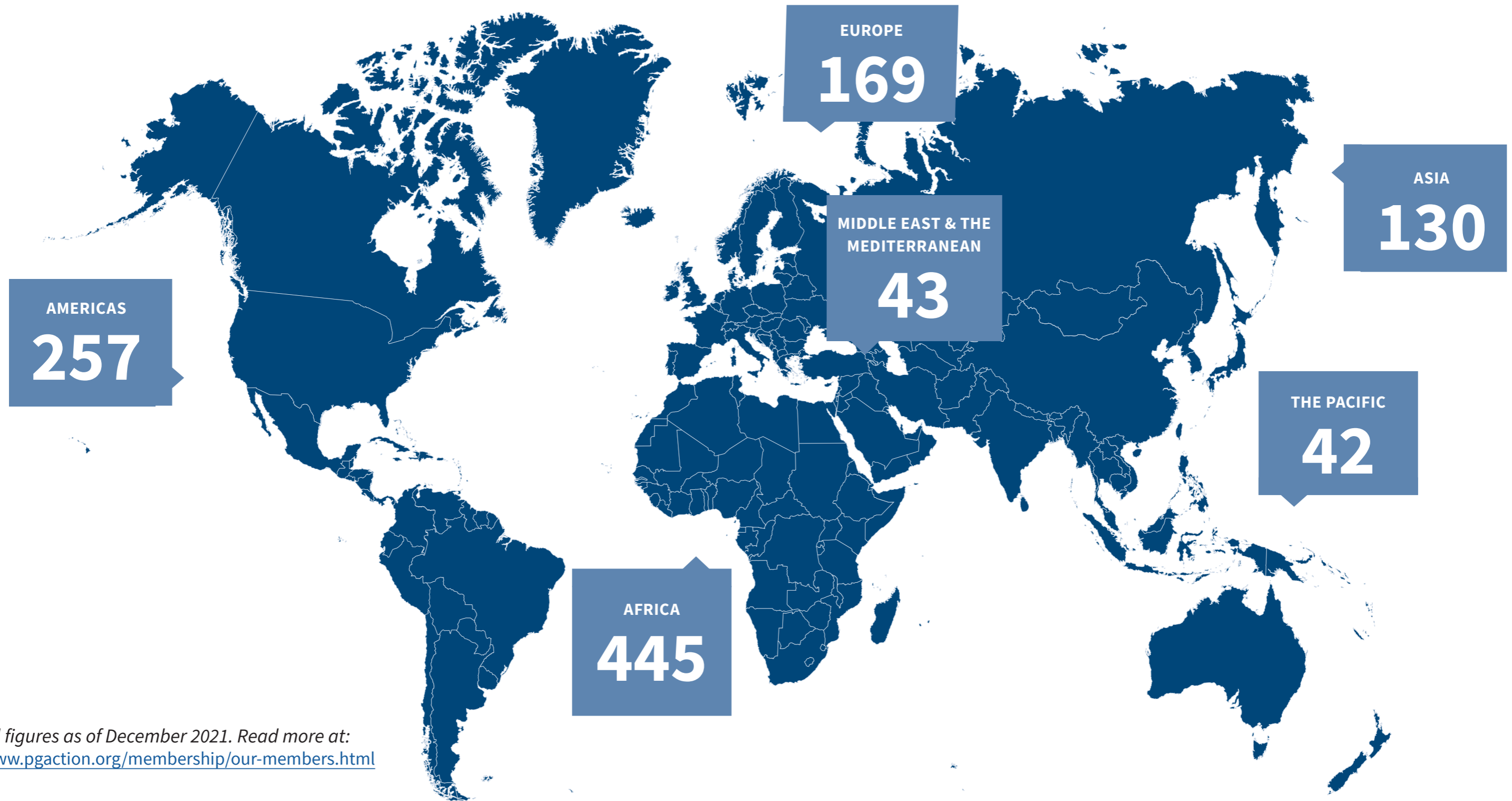
5

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 2021. Read more at:  
[www.pgaction.org/membership/our-members.html](http://www.pgaction.org/membership/our-members.html)

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## PRESIDENT



**Hon. Kasthuri Patto, MP**  
Malaysia

## CHAIR OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL



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

## TREASURER



**Ms. Petra Bayr, MP**  
Austria

PGA is grateful for the leadership of its members who served on the Executive Committee in 2021:  
Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP (Sweden), President;  
Dep. Amina Maelainine, MP (Morocco);  
Dep. Antonio Niquice (Mozambique);  
and Dep. Levy Nazarré (São Tomé and Príncipe), Treasurer



**Hon. Valerie Woods**  
*Speaker of Parliament*  
Belize



**Mr. Ali Ehsassi, MP**  
Canada



**Dip. Tucapel Jiménez\***  
Chile



**Dip. Dr. Esther Cuesta, MP**  
Ecuador



**Dip. Jorge Cálix**  
Honduras



**Hon. Dr. Angela Brown-Burke, MP**  
Jamaica



**Hon. Millie Odhiambo, MP**  
Kenya



**Hon. Rozaina Adam, MP**  
Maldives



**Sen. Boris Dittrich**  
Netherlands



**Hon. Bernard Georges, MP**  
Seychelles



**Ms. Ann-Sofie Alm, MP**  
Sweden



**Mr. Mark Pritchard, MP**  
United Kingdom

\*As of March 2022, Dip. Tucapel Jiménez (Chile) is no longer a Member of Parliament.

# INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Sen. Lucila Crexell (Argentina)

Ms. Maria Vamvakinou, MP (Australia)

Dep. Reine Benao Sakande (Burkina Faso)

Dep. José Manuel Sanches Tavares (Cape Verde)

Dep. Emilie Béatrice Epaye (Central African Republic)

Dip. Victor Suárez (Dominican Republic)

Dip. Dr. Esther Cuesta (Ecuador)

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

Hon. Dawda Kawsu Jawara, MP (the Gambia)

Hon. Supriya Sadanand Sule, MP (India)

Ms. Lia Quartapelle, MP (Italy)

Dep. Ana Rita Sithole (Mozambique)

Hon. Evelyn Nawases-Taeyele, MP (Namibia)

Mr. Adrian Rurawhe, MP (New Zealand)

Hon. Abdulrazak Namdas, MP (Nigeria)

Dep. Raul Cardoso (São Tomé and Príncipe)

Mr. Patrick Kensenhuis, MP (Suriname)

Mr. Anders Österberg, MP (Sweden)

Hon. Jasson Rweikiza, MP (Tanzania)

Sen. Wade Mark (Trinidad and Tobago)

Hon. Fox Odoi Oywelowo, MP (Uganda)

Dr. Hryhoriy Nemyria, MP (Ukraine)

Dip. Armando Armas (Venezuela)

Hon. Dorcas Sibanda, MP (Zimbabwe)

N.B.: PGA National Groups of Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Kenya, the Netherlands and United Kingdom are chaired by members of the PGA Executive Committee.

# 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. The Secretariat chose these locations because they host the United Nations and international justice institutions.

## **Dr. David Donat Cattin**

Secretary-General  
donat@pgaction.org

## **Ms. Jennifer McCarthy**

Deputy Secretary-General  
jennifer.mccarthy@pgaction.org

## **Mr. Michael Agbeko**

Director of Administration  
agbeko@pgaction.org

## **Mr. Thiago Carvalho**

Senior Programme Officer  
thiago@pgaction.org

## **Ms. Tiffany Ommundsen**

Senior Development Officer  
tiffany.ommundsen@pgaction.org

## **Mr. Charles Rubin**

Membership and Information Technology Officer  
charles.rubin@pgaction.org

## **GEI PROGRAMME**

### **Ms. Mónica Adame**

Director  
Gender Equality and Inclusion Programme  
monica.adame@pgaction.org

### **Ms. Lauranne Duffaut**

Programme Officer  
lauranne.duffaut@pgaction.org

### **Ms. Faatimah Saarah Monawvil**

Programme Officer  
saarah.monawvil@pgaction.org

## **IPS PROGRAMME**

### **Mr. Peter Barcroft**

Senior Director  
peter.barcroft@PGAAction.org

### **Mr. Florian Delsert**

Programme Associate  
florian.delsert@pgaction.org

## **ILHR PROGRAMME**

### **Ms. Frederika Schweighoferova**

Senior Legal Officer, ILHR Programme  
Director, Rome Statute Campaign  
schweighoferova@pgaction.org

### **Mr. Daniel Garzón López**

Programme Officer  
daniel.garzon@pgaction.org

### **Ms. Faatimah Saarah Monawvil**

Programme Officer  
saarah.monawvil@pgaction.org

### **Ms. Leyla Nikjou**

Senior Consultant, Oceans Campaign  
leyla.nikjou@pgaction.org

### **Ms. Melissa Verpile**

Senior Legal Officer, ILHR Programme  
melissa.verpile@pgaction.org

### **Ms. Olivia Houssais**

Programme Associate  
olivia.houssais@pgaction.org

### **Mr. Eloi Urwodhi**

Consultant (Kinshasa),  
Campaign for the Rome Statute of the ICC  
eloi.urwodhi@pgaction.org

## **DRHR CAMPAIGN**

### **Ms. Melissa Verpile**

Director, DRHR Campaign  
melissa.verpile@pgaction.org

### **Mr. Daniel Garzón López**

Programme Officer  
daniel.garzon@pgaction.org

*PGA is grateful to Ms. Julia Tétrault-Provencher and Mr. Alex Roche for their dedicated service to PGA in 2021.*

## 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. Alexander Marschik**

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. Mr. Olof Skoog**

Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

**H.E. Mr. Harold Adlai Agyeman**

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. Olivier Maes**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Mission of Luxembourg

**H.E. Ms. Pascale Christine Baeriswyl**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Mission of Switzerland

**H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Mission of Ukraine

## UN SECRETARIAT AND AGENCIES

**Mr. Adama Dieng**

UN Expert on Human Rights in the Sudan;  
Former Under Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

## 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**

Chairperson of the Board 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, 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

09

# DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The core [Campaign for Democratic Renewal and Human Rights](#) seeks to contribute directly to PGA's vision of a "rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe, sustainable and democratic world," by using its technical expertise to empower its members and establish links with parliamentary associations and legislative caucuses working to promote and safeguard multi-party democracy worldwide through a concerted effort.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

As reported by Freedom House, 2021 was the [15th consecutive year of democratic decline](#). Governments worldwide continued imposing harsh restrictions that have considerably affected how civilians enjoy their fundamental human rights. Worse yet, in countries around the world, democratic institutions and principles have been disregarded, paving the way for the rise of authoritarian regimes or the consolidation of dictatorships.

Since its inception in 2018, PGA's core Campaign for Democratic Renewal and Human Rights (DRHR) has worked relentlessly in support of democracy, the Rule of Law and human rights domestically and internationally – with a considerable increase of its work during 2021 – despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic. As the world struggled with a new reality, [PGA called for universal access to safe, effective and affordable vaccines against COVID-19](#), with the understanding that all individuals have the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. As the pandemic puts new constraints on their ability to perform their mandate, PGA continued building its COVID-19 resources hub – containing more than 600 resources in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) – to equip parliamentarians and civil society organizations (CSOs) with strategies and effective responses to new challenges. Consequently, the need to promote and safeguard democracy and defend its principles and institutions has become more urgent.

In response to the shocking news of the violent assault at the **United States** Capitol, [PGA's membership deplored the attacks](#), expressed their unwavering support to US legislators, and [reiterated the call to defend democracy](#) made by multiple organizations in June 2020. Parliaments are indispensable democratic institutions. The legislature performs unique functions of representation, legislation and oversight and is the branch that advocates for the needs of citizens. If parliaments cannot exercise their essential mandate, the health of democracy is compromised.

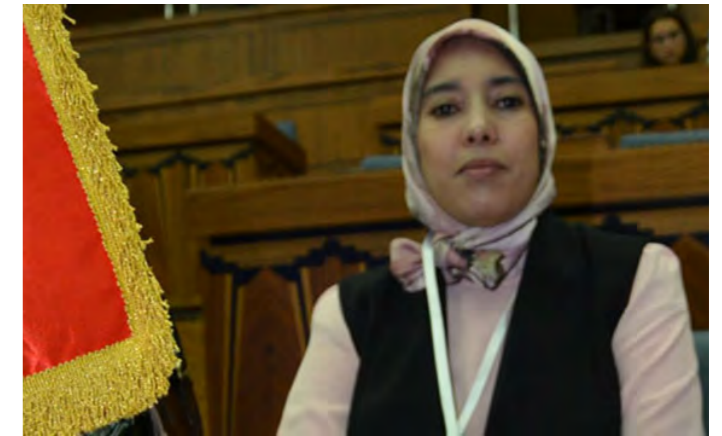
In a [joint statement](#) with its partner, the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), PGA stood

in solidarity with the elected representatives of **Myanmar's** parliament. Following the deposition of the National League for Democracy (NLD) members, PGA called on the military to respect democracy by allowing parliament to resume its work and MPs to fulfill their mandate without impediment. Similar actions were taken after the erosion of democratic principles, such as the separation of powers in [El Salvador](#) and [Trinidad and Tobago](#), the crackdown against legislators in [Malaysia](#), the suspension of parliament in [Tunisia](#) and the *coup d'état* in [Sudan](#).

Democratic backsliding worldwide has put at grave risk those who oppose the government or its policies. It has also undermined any progress towards democracy, peace, justice and accountability for mass atrocity crimes.

Evidence of democratic decline includes the arrest, persecution and prosecution of parliamentarians, journalists, minorities and human rights defenders; excessive use of force to enforce new regulations derived from the COVID-19 pandemic; closing of civic and political spaces; and the weaponization and suppression of the media, among other elements.

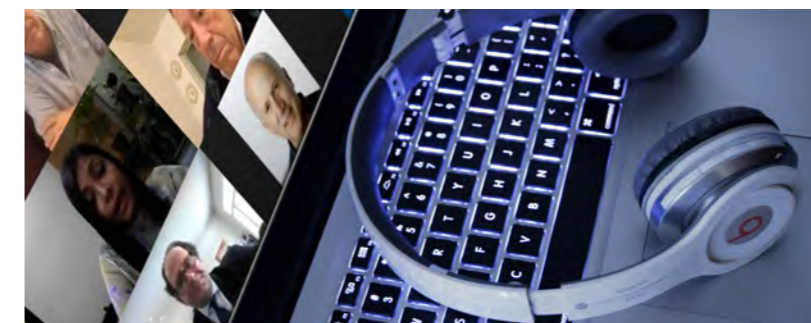
Through its [Parliamentary Rapid Response Team](#) (PARRT), the DRHR Campaign took concrete actions on several fronts while fiercely advocating for the release of incarcerated members of parliament and human rights defenders worldwide.



**“The separation of powers is an essential principle of democracy, which translates into the prohibition of the Executive Branch to infringe upon the prerogatives of the Legislative and Judiciary Branches.”**

– PGA Executive Committee member, Hon. Amina Maelainine, MP (Morocco)

In February 2021, PGA and its partner, the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights (RWCHR), [co-hosted a panel discussion](#) where leading legislators urged the government for the immediate and unconditional release of the **Iranian** human rights activist, Ms. Nasrin Sotoudeh, following her conviction in 2018 to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes. Upon the initiative of PGA members, Ms. Louisa Wall, MP (New Zealand) and Ms. Golriz Ghahraman, MP (New Zealand), [a follow-up event in the New Zealand Parliament](#) was organized to continue raising awareness on her case. PGA also recognized the importance of standing up against the persecution of vulnerable collectives and minorities. Together with the RWCHR, [PGA raised concerns about the increase of anti-Bahá'í propaganda](#) disseminated by Iranian state-run media, as the continued persecution and state-sponsored repression against the Bahá'ís and other religious and ethnic minorities can lead to the commission of crimes against humanity or genocide.

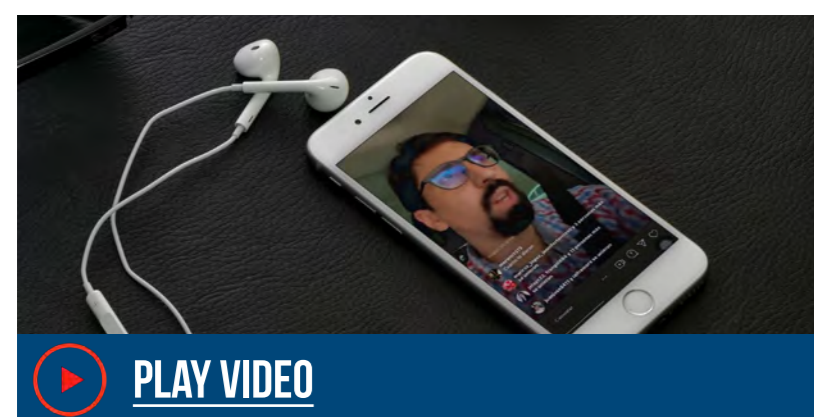


 **PLAY VIDEO**

**HOW PARLIAMENTARIANS CAN SUPPORT AT-RISK HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

To effectively conduct their mandate, parliamentarians must do so freely and without fear of reprisal. PARRT member Ms. Anita Vandenberg, MP (Canada), [delivered a remarkable intervention at the Canadian House of Commons](#) calling for the release of PGA Member Senator Leila de Lima, MP (**The Philippines**) – arbitrarily imprisoned for more than four years for her work as a human rights defender. Additionally, Ms. Vandenberg referred to the PARRT the situation of former **Burundian** MP, Mr. Fabien Banciryanino. Subsequently, PGA and the RWCHR [denounced his incarceration and political persecution](#) in a joint effort. Following the statement’s wide recognition, both organizations were [interviewed by Radio Peace](#) with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda, to discuss the case. Thanks to international pressure, on 1 October 2021, the RWCHR and PGA celebrated Mr. Banciryanino’s release after one year in prison.

In addition to these efforts, PARRT members denounced the systemic human rights violations and imprisonment of opposition leaders and journalists in **Ethiopia**, including the incarceration and prosecution of journalists Mr. Eskinder Nega and Mr. Jawar Mohammed. After the alert was published, an Ethiopian Diaspora Radio – broadcasted worldwide – organized an interview with the Chair of the PGA Italy National Group, Ms. Lia Quartapelle, MP, where she called on authorities to cease hostilities and respect democracy and human rights in the country. Additionally, PARRT member Mr. Anders Österberg, MP (Sweden) connected PGA to local human rights organizations and members of the Ethiopian Parliament to continue addressing the issue. At the request of the Chair of PGA’s Venezuela National Group, Dip. Armando Armas, the PARRT [condemned the enforced disappearance and arbitrary incarceration](#) of Member of Parliament and former President of the National Assembly, Mr. Freddy Guevara.



TRANSMISSION OF DEPUTY FREDDY GUEVARA ON INSTAGRAM OF THE MOMENT IN WHICH AGENTS OF THE REGIME APPROACHED HIM TO ARREST HIM

PGA members have stood up for their colleagues as the pandemic has exacerbated the assaults against legislators themselves, especially women. On 1 March 2021, upon the invitation of PARRT Member Dr. Hannah Neumann, MEP (Germany), PGA made significant contributions at the consultations with the **European Parliament** to implement the [Solidarity with Parliamentarians Project](#), an initiative that promotes twinning relationships between MEPs and legislators who are at-risk or have been deprived of their political and fundamental rights. The project was officially launched on the International Day of Parliamentarism. Moreover, on 28 April 2021, the European Parliament’s former Vice-President, Mr. Fabio Massimo Castaldo, MEP (Italy), [tabled two written questions](#) to the European Commission and the European External Action Service concerning the expulsion and political persecution of PGA member, Hon. Dorcas Sibanda, MP (**Zimbabwe**) and other Zimbabwean parliamentarians.

Attacks against women parliamentarians pose a severe barrier to the development of societies. Women’s active and full participation in decision-making processes within parliaments, without constraints and fear of repression, is essential to peace, democracy and sustainable development. On 26 May 2021, while urging their peers to take concrete steps, PARRT members launched an initiative to [“S.T.O.P Violence Against Women Parliamentarians”](#) and denounced all forms of violence and discrimination against women in parliament. Following the dissemination of this action during

PGA’s 42nd Annual Forum, the Senate of the Republic of Argentina collectively endorsed the S.T.O.P. initiative on 9 December 2021.

As we face a more digitalized world, the rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation has undoubtedly gained an important space in the political agenda, including in parliaments.

Social media platforms have become a dangerous weapon to engage in hate speech, discrimination, incitement to violence, and racism.

On the occasion of PGA’s International Council Meeting held on 19 March 2021, the DRHR Campaign officially launched the [Global Parliamentary Code of Democratic Conduct](#) – its second pillar – as a mechanism to combat this trend and hold parliamentarians accountable for their speech, demand dialogue respectful of all and refrain from disinformation.

Today, 67 Members of Parliament from 36 countries have signed the Code and abide by its principles. To raise awareness on the issue of disinformation and sensitize lawmakers, PGA hosted with its partner the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC), a [virtual workshop](#) on 16 November 2021 on how women parliamentarians can strengthen national efforts to legislate against racism, hate speech and discrimination.



**“As Members of Parliament around the globe, we are coming together to denounce the persecution, prosecution, sexism, harassment, and all other forms of discrimination and violence against women parliamentarians around the world. Violence in any of its forms must not be used as a tool to repress women and those who participate in political spaces. Gender imbalance, inequality, and attacks on women weaken our ability to build stronger democracies and more resilient societies.”**  
 – PARRT Member, Dr. Hannah Neuman, MEP (Germany)





## GENDER, EQUALITY &amp; 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; 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.



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

## STATEMENT

PGA members urge the international community to protect the rights of girls and women in Afghanistan against all forms of violence and discrimination



Campaign to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM)

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In the **Philippines**, PGA member Senator Leila de Lima co-authored in 2020 (during her protracted detention) the "[Girls Not Brides Act](#)," a bill prohibiting minors from marrying and outlining prison sentences and fines for perpetrators. It was voted unanimously in favor by the Senate. The House of Representatives adopted its equivalent, House Bill No. 9943, on 27 September 2021. On 10 December 2021, it was signed into law as Republic Act No. 11596, also known as "[An Act Prohibiting the Practice of Child Marriage and Imposing Penalties](#)," consolidating both the Senate and House bills.

The Philippines' law could serve as model for neighboring countries in the Southeast Asian region, where cases of child marriage have continued to rise amid the Covid pandemic.

**Kenyan** member-parliamentarians and members of Girls Not Brides' National Partnership in Kenya met on 18 February 2021, in person in parliament, to discuss concrete actions to end child, early and forced marriage. They agreed to work closely to develop a National Strategy to End Child Marriage, similar to the one banning female genital mutilation (FGM) in the country. This was a follow up meeting to a [Strategic Dialogue between Parliamentarians and Civil Society Representatives on Harmful Practices in Kenya](#) held on 16 December 2020.



"With the passage of the law against child marriage, children, particularly young girls, now have hope for a future of their own choosing. With this new law, it is hoped that they will grow into strong, unshackled and fulfilled persons in their own right, who will fight for their rights and the rights of others."

– PGA Member Senator Leila de Lima,  
The Philippines

MPs from **Afghanistan, Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, Kenya, Mauritania, Romania, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sweden, Uganda** and **Zimbabwe** joined a [roundtable](#) to discuss the penalization of forced marriage as a crime against humanity. During the conversation, experts, civil society representatives and survivors discussed the potential implications of the International Criminal Court's [Ongwen judgement](#). The roundtable that took place on 22 April 2021, was co-organized with Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ).



Meeting of Kenyan MPs and members of Girls Not Brides National Partnership in Kenya »



The Role of Parliamentarians in Implementing Forced Marriage as a Crime against Humanity in their Domestic Legislation - Toolkit »

PGA launched its groundbreaking [toolkit](#) on *The Role of Parliamentarians in Implementing Forced Marriage as a Crime against Humanity* in their Domestic Legislation as a tool for parliamentarians to more effectively support their legislative work as well as for other stakeholders advocating to promote the domestication of this crime.



**Esther Cuesta Santana**

@esthercuestasan

El matrimonio infantil pone en riesgo la vida y la salud de las niñas, además de limitar sus perspectivas futuras.

Sin acciones e inversiones aceleradas, América Latina ocupará el 2do puesto más alto de uniones tempranas para 2030.

[#PowerToGirls](#)

[#16Days](#)

[#EndChildMarriage](#)

**1 de 4 niñas en América Latina y El Caribe se casa o entra en unión temprana forzada antes de los 18 años.**

**Esto atenta la dignidad, la integridad y proyectos de vida de miles de niñas, es una violación de los derechos humanos.**

[#16Days](#)

[#PowerToGirls](#)

[#Endchildmarriage](#)

[#EndGenderBasedViolence](#)



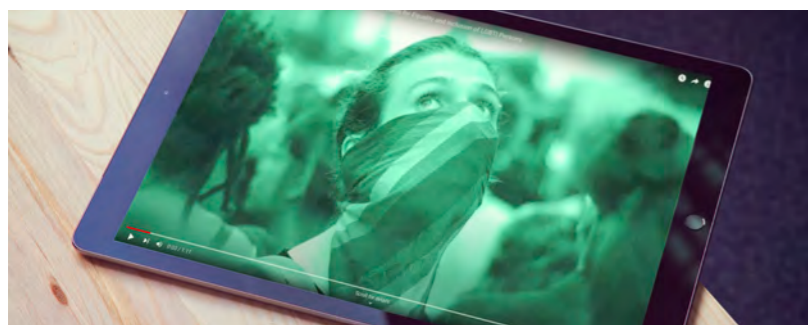
# CAMPAIGN AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

PGA's [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). To date, PGA has sensitized and engaged 230+ parliamentarians from over 40 countries and facilitated meaningful interactions with representatives of the LGBTI community in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.

PGA facilitated interviews with member-parliamentarians and supported the launch of the [research report Leadership for Inclusion: What skills and qualities do parliamentarians need to be able to promote inclusive change?](#) prepared by Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). In their interviews with WFP, PGA member-parliamentarians notably from, **Kenya, New Zealand, and Pakistan, underscored the uniqueness and importance of “PGA as a valuable platform serving a fascinating mission to assist parliamentarians (rather than parliaments) articulate themselves on specific issues.”**

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

On 24 March 2021, the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN and PGA organized a side event to the 65th Commission on the Status of Women, titled “[Women Leaders as Advocates for Equality and Inclusion of LGBTI+ Persons.](#)” The conversation brought together women parliamentarians and civil society leaders to share best practices, successes and challenges to further scale up concrete initiatives and legislative actions to address discrimination against and achieve equality and inclusion for everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression and sex characteristics.



CSW65 (2021) SIDE EVENT: WOMEN LEADERS AS ADVOCATES FOR EQUALITY AND INCLUSION OF LGBTI PERSONS

[PLAY VIDEO](#)



On 28 April 2021, PGA hosted a [virtual panel](#) titled “Legislative Reform and Protective Measures: A Conversation with Parliamentarians” during UNDP’s ‘Being LGBTI in the Caribbean’ Regional Dialogue.

Hon. Valerie Woods, Speaker of the House of Representatives of **Belize** and a PGA Executive Committee member, guided a conversation with fellow PGA members Hon. Dr. Angela Brown-Burke, MP (**Jamaica**) and Hon. Andy Daniel, then Speaker of the House of Assembly of **St. Lucia**.

The dialogue reviewed the situation of LGBTIQ+ persons in the Caribbean, encouraging genuine, constructive and open discussions with activists and facilitating the exchange of good practices.

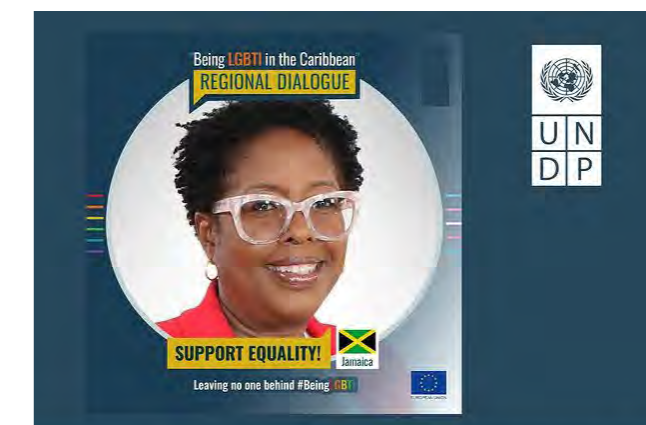
In June 2021, PGA celebrated the ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) on the responsibility of the State of **Honduras** for the 2009 murder of transgender woman and activist, Ms. Vicky Hernandez.

This is the first time that the highest regional human rights court (based in Costa Rica) has held a State accountable for the death – and failure to prosecute those responsible for the death – of a trans individual.

As part of our actions to advance the human rights and inclusion of LGBTI+ people around the world, PGA submitted an **Amicus Brief in support of the litigation and the application of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women** (Belém do Pará Convention) in the murder of Ms. Hernandez.

Additionally, on 11 June 2021, **Honduran** PGA members met with representatives of Honduran civil society organization Somos CDC to [discuss the Equality and Equity Bill](#). The bill seeks to protect all vulnerable groups in the country from discrimination and has the support of more than 30 local civil society organizations.

PGA was honored to be an Executive Partner of the [Interparliamentary Plenary Assembly](#) (IPA), which took place in the Parliament of **Denmark**, in Copenhagen on 20 August 2021, as part of World Pride Copenhagen 2021. As part of the IPA, and in collaboration with the Human Dignity Trust, PGA organized a session on “[The Role of Legislative Reform in Promoting Protective Measures for LGBTI+ Persons and Decriminalization of Consensual Same-Sex Conduct](#)” to highlight the role of parliamentarians in promoting international human rights obligations and to encourage legislators to become champions



“The responsibility we have as parliamentarians is protecting everyone, especially those who are more vulnerable.” Hon. Dr. Angela Brown-Burke, Member of Parliament in Jamaica

PGA member Hon. Dr. Angela Brown-Burke, MP, Jamaica, expresses her support for human rights & inclusion of LGBTI people in the Caribbean to celebrate Pride Month.



“The ruling in Vicky Hernandez’s case is a wake-up call for the state of Honduras and a call to action. Honduras has an obligation to become a place where people can live and work without worrying about any kind of discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. This ruling also orders the state of Honduras, through the national Congress, to make reforms in the law so that trans people can make the corresponding changes in their National Identity Card in order to have their identity recognized. As a Congressman, I am committed to promote these reforms in order to turn Honduras into a country with more rights for all.”

– PGA Executive Committee Member Dip. Jorge Cálix (Honduras)



PGA members at the Interparliamentary Plenary Assembly celebrated during WorldPride Copenhagen 2021.

for inclusion of LGBTI+ people. PGA members from **Argentina, Austria, Belize, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Fiji, Jamaica, Kenya, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sweden** and **Uganda** participated in-person or virtually.

In collaboration with UNDP’s Inclusive Governance Initiative (IGI) in **Sub-Saharan Africa**, PGA co-organized the launch of the “**African Parliamentarians’ Forum on Gender and Sexual Diversity**” on 26 August 2021. Ten African parliamentarians from **Cape Verde, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Seychelles** and **Zimbabwe** shared their experiences in promoting human rights and discussed ways to support each

other. UNDP and PGA expect this Forum to become a platform for African MPs to connect regularly on important matters of equality and inclusion of LGBTI+ persons in the region.

Reacting to the Parliament of Uganda’s adoption of the 2019 Sexual Offences Bill, Hon. Fox Odoi-Oywelowo, MP (Uganda) and Chair of the Human Rights Committee and PGA’s Uganda National Group, said:



“I am steadfast in my objections to the criminalization of consensual sexual intercourse between adults by whatever gender described. It is not only the individuals concerned that suffer - such discriminatory provisions have also a far-reaching impact on the society as a whole. While I have been deeply saddened and concerned that this Bill, containing so many human rights retrogressing provisions has passed in my country, the President’s refusal to assent to the Bill has given me hope that the respect for human rights ultimately prevails in my country.”

– Hon. Fox Odoi-Oywelowo, MP, Chair of the Human Rights Committee (Uganda) and PGA member

President Museveni refused to sign the bill into law, sending it back to parliament in August 2021.

On 7 December 2021, **Chile** adopted a [Marriage Equality Law](#). Reacting to this important development for equality of same-sex partners, PGA Executive Committee member Dip. Tucapel Jimenez (Chile) said:



“Today, we approved and submitted the Marriage Equality bill. It is an historic day for Chile and it is of complete justice that the State advances in the full recognition of the different forms of family. We must end, once and for all, all kinds of discrimination and always remember that love should not be affected by any ideology, love is love, and it is the duty of all of us to uphold this right.”

– Dip. Tucapel Jimenez (Chile)

## CAMPAIGN FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change threatens the effective enjoyment of a range of human rights including those to life, water and sanitation, food, health, housing, self-determination, culture and development. States have an obligation to prevent the foreseeable adverse effects of climate change on human rights and ensure that those affected by it – particularly those in vulnerable situations – have access to effective remedies and means of adaptation to enjoy lives of dignity.

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean set an example in their commitment to the prosperity and respect for their people and their environment by ratifying the [Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Participation, and Justice in Environmental Matters](#). This is the region's first environmental treaty as well as the world's first agreement with provisions on human rights defenders in environmental matters. It is founded on the principle of equality, inclusion and non-discrimination (Article 3, para. 1). This treaty's adoption in the framework of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) represents a milestone towards a vision of justice that encompasses "climate justice." PGA's Executive Committee adopted this new campaign on 21 December 2021 within the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan.

As a result, in 2022, PGA will launch this Campaign to **sensitize and mobilize parliamentarians in the Caribbean around the Escazú Agreement** as a tool to catalyze **climate governance and action from a human rights-based approach** in the region.



Members of the community of Miñi Miñi use diggers to rescue neighbours from flooded areas. Loíza, on the northeastern coast of Puerto Rico, was severely affected by Hurricane Maria.

# CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

The [Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty](#) aims to abolish the death penalty, promote justice systems grounded in the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all. PGA assists its members from both retentionist and abolitionist countries to introduce legislative initiatives eliminating the death penalty or reducing the scope of its application, including the elimination of mandatory sentencing.



**“The Death penalty denies the capacity of individuals to rehabilitate and contribute to a meaningful society. Most importantly, the application of capital punishment is not only fundamentally unfair, but also risks being legally-flawed.”**

– Hon. Dorcas Sibanda, MP (Zimbabwe)

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA members advocated for the abolition of the federal death penalty in the US in an [Open Letter to President Biden](#) in July 2021 entitled: “Your Vow to End the Federal Death Penalty.”

On the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty on 20-21 October 2021, PGA and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty organized two events – in [English](#) and [French](#) – where civil society organizations and other key stakeholders discussed how to engage with Members of Parliament to abolish the death penalty and identified meaningful ways of advocacy to move forward in this respect.

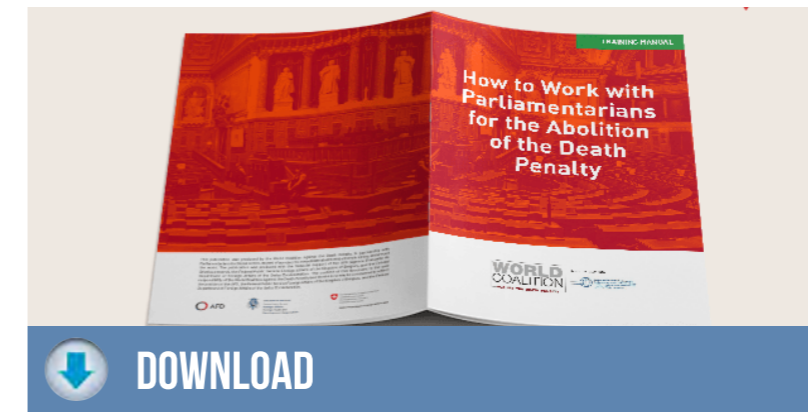
PGA prepared a toolkit on women on death row, “Addressing the gender dimension of the death penalty: Co-action between Parliamentarians and Civil Society.” It is available in [English](#) and [French](#). The toolkit facilitates advocacy on the abolition of the death penalty for civil society.

In partnership with the **World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**, PGA also contributed to a training manual for civil society on “How to work with Parliamentarians for the Abolition of the Death Penalty in [English](#) and [French](#).”

In November 2021, PGA Executive Committee member and Chair of PGA’s **United Kingdom** National

Group, Mr. Mark Pritchard, MP (United Kingdom) [posed a parliamentary question](#) on whether the UK will hold discussions with counterparts in Commonwealth countries on ending the death penalty for minors and people who are mentally-incapacitated. In response, the Minister for Middle East and North Africa at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office reaffirmed the UK’s commitment to work towards abolition of the death penalty globally.

PGA further supported the activities and advocacy of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty as a member of its Steering Committee in the **Maldives**, **Sri Lanka**, the **Philippines** and **Turkey**.



DOWNLOAD

GUIDE ON WORKING WITH  
PARLIAMENTARIANS TO ABOLISH THE  
DEATH PENALTY



DOWNLOAD

ADDRESSING THE GENDER DIMENSION  
OF THE DEATH PENALTY:

COACTION BETWEEN  
PARLIAMENTARIANS AND CIVIL  
SOCIETY



# CAMPAIGN FOR THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The [Rome Statute Campaign](#) aims to promote a universal culture of upholding the Rule of Law, human rights, and human dignity, by contributing to putting an end to impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, 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.



**“How can we protect any democratic society when the gravest crimes remain unpunished, fueling a culture of impunity?”**

– Mr. Fabio Massimo Castaldo, MEP (Italy), former Vice President of the European Parliament and Chair of the PGA European Parliament Group

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In May 2021, following 5 years of active PGA's involvement, the Parliament of **Ukraine** [adopted Bill no. 2689](#), “On amendments to certain legislative acts on the Enforcement of International Criminal and Humanitarian Law,” which PGA co-authored. To further advance its promulgation, PGA has sent letters to the [President of Ukraine](#) as well as the [Chairman of the Parliament](#) (Verkhovna Rada).

PGA joined 65 organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Redress in August 2021 in urging the government of **Sudan** to follow through on recent commitments to deepen its cooperation with the ICC by transferring the 3 individuals currently in Sudanese custody to The Hague and show its commitment to breaking with the decades-long legacy of impunity.

In September 2021, the Senate of the Republic of **Mexico** [approved](#) the Amendments to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). This followed the delivery of the [presentation of PGA member Sen. Emilio Álvarez Icaza](#), Member of the Justice Committee, on the importance of these amendments during a plenary session, which led to their unanimous approval. The decision was sent to the Executive branch to deposit the instrument of ratification of the amendments with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Following the Senate approval of Article 8 amendments, PGA shared with Sen. Álvarez a parliamentary resolution accompanied by a short explanatory text calling on the Mexican parliament to also ratify the amendment on starvation as a war crime in non-international armed conflicts.



▶ PLAY VIDEO

ESTATUTO DE ROMA, PRODUCTO DE ÚLTIMA GENERACIÓN DE DERECHOS HUMANOS: SEN. ÁLVAREZ ICAZA

PGA organized a visit of a delegation from the Parliament of **Ghana** in October 2021 to the ICC, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Senate of the Netherlands to discuss the adoption of the Rome Statute implementing legislation as well as other human rights-related topics. Ghanaian Parliamentarians expressed their commitment to restart the domestic implementation process of the Rome Statute and to approach the Executive for the commencement of the ratification process of all the Rome Statute's amendments on the crime of aggression and war crimes, including criminalization of the use of starvation in Non-International Armed Conflicts. To achieve these objectives, PGA provided the Ghanaian Parliamentarians with a full technical assistance.



The Parliament of **Italy** [passed](#) with an overwhelming majority in November 2021 the draft law concerning the ratification of the Kampala Amendments on the crime of aggression and war crimes (the [deposit of ratification](#) took place on 26 January 2022). The Foreign Affairs Committee decided to approve the draft law immediately after a session, held on 3 March 2021, where PGA's Secretary-General delivered an expert testimony in support of the Amendments.

PGA provided **draft laws and technical support upon request** by Members of Parliament in **Chile** and shared a comprehensive legal assessment and suggestions for amendments to the Bill on Cooperation with the ICC. Additionally, PGA provided a complete draft law implementing the Rome Statute in Arabic to legislators in **Jordan**. In **Ukraine**, PGA drafted three legal commentaries on the draft legislation, Bill no. 2689, and selected provisions contained therein and submitted them to the Head of the Law Enforcement Committee.

PGA participated in the [20th Assembly of States Parties to the ICC](#) in December 2021 and organized two side events on the “[Role of Parliamentarians in Promoting the Universality of the Rome Statute: The State of Play in Today's ICC](#)” and “[Reforming National Nomination Procedures for ICC Judicial Candidates](#).” The panellists included the Ambassadors of the **Netherlands**, the **Republic of Korea** and **Switzerland**; government officials from New Zealand; the ICC President; and MPs from **Jamaica, Malaysia, Ukraine** and the **European Parliament**. The event also included the participation of experts from civil society and other key stakeholders, including the **Chairperson of the Independent Experts Review of the ICC**, Justice Richard Goldstone, and the **Chairperson of the Board of the Trust Fund for Victims** (and former PGA President) Ms. Minou Tavárez Mirabal.

In addition to these concrete actions, PGA organized in-person, virtual as well as hybrid meetings at both the domestic and regional levels, through which it mobilized its member-parliamentarians in **Afghanistan** (now in exile), **Cape Verde, Ecuador, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Jamaica, Palestine, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Gambia, Togo, Ukraine, Yemen** and **Zimbabwe** towards the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute.

# NEVER FORGET AFGHANISTAN: THE LESSON TO BE LEARNED FROM 2021

*A side note by PGA's Secretary-General, Dr. David Donat Cattin*

At times one must pause and reflect on what went wrong and why, learn from mistakes, and move forward with policies that attempt to effectively resolve problems and minimize risks.

15 August 2021 will be remembered as the most tragic day of the year: After almost two decades of intense international intervention in Afghanistan, the Taliban regime returned to Kabul, marking the worst failure in the era characterized by the so-called “global war on terror”.

PGA has worked with Afghan Lawmakers since 2008, when a multi-party and multi-ethnic group of Afghan Members held a meeting with the first ICC Prosecutor at the margins of the PGA Annual Forum in Santo Domingo devoted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the ICC & the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC). Since then, PGA identified the prevailing impunity for mass atrocities in Afghanistan as an incumbent and imminent threat for the fragile Rule of Law system that was slowly developing with the support of the International Community in furtherance of the Bonn Agreements of 2002. Since 2002, while warlords from the Northern Alliance and leaders of other factions would disagree on most policies concerning State-building, they essentially agreed on self-imposed amnesties that allowed impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity in violation of International Law, including Afghanistan's obligations as an ICC Member State. In fact, in 2003 President Karzai had decided to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC as a means to remedy the inability of the Afghan jurisdictional system to handle the pressures from powerful persons. But impunity was not tackled domestically or by the ICC itself, and the *status quo* fueled a culture of illegality that weakened the Afghan State to such a point that its corrupt leaders capitulated almost without resistance to the Taliban militias, which violated their own commitments to stop the hostilities made in the Doha Peace Agreement with the United States in 2020.

In 2021, PGA embarked on a series of consultations and events on Afghanistan. In April 2021, PGA Members in Afghanistan discussed a *Draft Parliamentary Resolution on Peace with Justice for Afghanistan*, but the prevailing rhetoric of reducing the Taliban to a terrorist organization (as the UN Security Council had done in multiple resolutions post September 11, 2001), and the lack of institutional credibility of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, blocked progress.

The Taliban – a rebel group, not simply a terrorist organization – tried to acquire power by all means, including through the perpetration of crimes against humanity against women and girls and the enslavement of children for the purposes of forced indoctrination and recruitment into its armed ranks.

PGA highlighted this reality in a series of online events organized to sensitize our global network to engage with States, International Organizations and other stakeholders in order to *never forget Afghanistan* and the victims of the mass atrocities of the past and, above all, of the present and the future. In parallel, the PGA Board decided that Afghan PGA Members, who

eventually all found refuge in neighboring countries, would be considered *as if* they were still Parliamentarians until the natural end of their constitutional mandate, hence sending a signal of solidarity and support. Most importantly, at its first meeting on Afghanistan of September 15, 2021, PGA Members from Afghanistan and our global network, alongside key partners – the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights – agreed on the following 11 Action Points, which continue to inform our work on Afghanistan in 2022:

- 1. Never forget Afghanistan and continue the discussion:** *Extend and expand the network to continuously remind the international community of the obligations to protect and promote human rights, notably through the establishment of a follow-up strategic Working Group gathering activists, experts, organizations, social groups, Think Tanks, opinion leaders and Members of Parliament from all around the world.*
- 2. Bring back justice as a priority:** *Urge the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to advance concrete investigations and the swift opening of symbolic cases on the alleged crimes against humanity, including gender-based persecution committed under the Taliban's extremist misinterpretation of the Sharia Law, and war crimes committed on the territory of Afghanistan or by its nationals since 1 May 2003 onward.*
- 3. Strategically direct the humanitarian aid and support to Afghan civilians and civil society:** *Afghan people are in dire need of humanitarian aids. This support, however, should not be directed to the Taliban de facto government, but should be directly sent to the local associations and beneficiaries. We must think about new strategies to put in place to ensure that associations of professionals (e.g. in the field of health-care, engineering and architecture for reconstruction, lawyers and jurists et alia, using the support-model for the civilian associations that resisted against the dictatorship of Al Bashir in Sudan until 2019), civil society organizations, women's groups, youth's groups, and other grass-root organisations receive direct humanitarian aid to better support the people on the ground. If international organisations, such as the World Bank, the UN or the World Food Program were to send assistance to the interim government, the international community must be convinced that the Taliban regime has been upholding the rights of all citizens and put in place transparency and accountability measures to ensure that human rights violations are prevented and punished.*
- 4. Do not recognise the Taliban government as the official government, but use it as leverage:** *To recognise the Taliban regime as an official government would be to recognise a government that has been forcibly imposed on Afghan people and which is not representing them. However, the international community should use this intention by the Taliban to be internationally recognised as leverage to ask the Taliban for the respect of human rights, starting with the rights of women and minorities, to put an end to gender-based persecution and enslavement, and to uphold Afghanistan's existing international obligations.*
- 5. Support the monitoring, documentation and collection of violations of international humanitarian law, international criminal law, and human rights law allegedly committed in Afghanistan:** *Support the work of NGOs and other actors who are currently monitoring, documenting, collecting and preserving evidence of the atrocities being committed by the Taliban since 15 August 2021, and before, as well as by any other actor that perpetrated inhumane acts against the civilian populations.*



6. Call for the establishment by the UN Human Rights Council of an **independent international investigation** mechanism, such as an Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Afghanistan: An independent mechanism should be put in place to monitor and document the alleged violations committed by the Taliban against Afghan civilians, including women, girls, journalists, members of parliament, human rights and women rights defenders. Under binding norms of International Law, it would be unacceptable to characterize the situation in Afghanistan as falling under the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a State in light of the gravity of the alleged human rights' abuses and their long-term impact, which constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the meaning of Article 39 of the UN Charter.
7. **Monitor the implementation, or lack thereof, of the public promises made by the Taliban** to the Afghan people and the international community: To put pressure on the de facto government, breaches of the pledges made by the Taliban should be monitored, documented, and called out in public fora. The Taliban should notably be urged to establish an inclusive government which considers the multifaceted society of Afghanistan and to fully respect the rights of women.
8. Have a **critical reflection on the imposition of sanctions, learn from past mistakes and put an end to the revengeful policies of the global "war on terror"**: While views during the roundtable were divergent regarding the imposition of sanctions – whereby individual sanctions such as the freezing of assets shall still be used as leverage against the Taliban leadership –, it is paramount to be self-critical on the failures of the so-called 'war on terror' and to acknowledge the counter-productivity, ineffectiveness and questionable legality of the techniques used, especially the so called "targeted killings", which ultimately failed to prevent the commission of new atrocities, led to further hatred and revenge, and helped the Taliban, ISIS and other extremists to find fertile grounds for their recruitment efforts. Parliamentarians and other actors should jointly raise their voices and recall that it is only through the respect of the Rule of Law that the international community can aim to a sustainable peace. Suspected authors of atrocities shall be arrested and brought to justice, not executed without a trial. Victims of such atrocities must have access to truth, justice and reparations.
9. Put pressure and resources in the government to facilitate the **urgent evacuation of Afghan civilians at risk**: Put in place urgent measures to facilitate the obtention of temporary status for people applying for resettlement as well as for asylum seekers and refugees.
10. **Support and advocate for activists, women's groups and women's rights defenders**: Afghan women who are in immediate danger due to their work or former work should be immediately supported. Parliamentarians should advocate for the establishment of programmes and the allocation of resources to directly protect Afghan women and girls and prevent the commission of crimes against them.
11. Create a parliamentary coalition of like-minded colleagues throughout the Parliament: In accordance with Parliamentarians' duties, Parliamentarians can use the power base of their Parliament to create different committees to fight against impunity, to hold the Executive Branch of their country more accountable, to influence their government's mandate and priorities, and to openly debate on matters related to peace, security and human rights. Parliamentarians for Global Action and the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies are fully committed to support this coalition-building process in all democracies of the world.

## LIST OF MAIN PUBLIC ACTIONS ON AFGHANISTAN

**19 August:** "Taliban must immediately halt human rights violations, especially those perpetrated against women and children"

**15 September:** Roundtable on Afghanistan – "Learning From Our Past Mistakes to Move Ahead to Try to Prevent New Atrocities"

**4 November:** Working Group on Afghanistan – "Legislators Must Continue to Put Pressure on Their Government"

**29 November:** "PGA members urge the international community to protect the rights of girls and women in Afghanistan against all forms of violence and discrimination"

**7 December:** PGA's Secretary-General address to the ICC Assembly of States Parties calling for the opening of a lessons-learned exercise to understand why the ICC and domestic Courts failed to open a single case on atrocities committed in Afghanistan since its ratification in early 2003 until 15 August 2021.

**21 December:** PGA UN Committee session on Afghanistan – "Ambassadors and legislators discuss strengthening accountability mechanisms while addressing the humanitarian crisis"

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

The [Campaign for the Protection of the Oceans and Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14](#) aims to end impunity for crimes committed on and against the world's oceans and their related human rights violations through ratification and implementation of international treaties and effective national legal structures on Ending Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing, Sustainable Small-scale Fishing (SSF) Industry, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Deep Seabed Mining (DSM).

The Oceans Campaign ended the year on a high note with the [Second Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the Oceans \(CAP-Oceans\)](#) on 17 December 2021, within the margins of PGA's 42nd Annual Forum. Lawmakers from PGA's global membership came together virtually to explore creative solutions to protect the rights and safety of those working in the fishing industry, while at the same time conserving our oceans to build resilience to climate change, maintain essential biodiversity, and support the air we breathe. The momentous event was hosted by the Speaker of the Parliament of Belize, PGA Executive Committee Member Hon. Valerie Woods.



## AGENDA: SECOND CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR THE OCEANS (CAP-OCEANS)

The Second CAP-Oceans marked the launch of two new partnerships under PGA's Oceans Campaign: a partnership with the Blue Nature Alliance on Marine Protected Areas, Climate Change, and the initiative to protect 30 percent of the oceans in fully/highly protected areas by 2030; and a partnership with the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition to protect oceans from the potentially disastrous effects of deep-seabed mining.

Attending parliamentarians announced strong commitments to engage in these new areas of work, while also highlighting the urgent upcoming deadline for ratification of the International Maritime Organization's Cape Town Agreement in October 2022. Expert speakers emphasized the important role parliamentarians play in ensuring small-scale fisheries are included in all discussions of sustainable oceans and fisheries.

The event focused on the current four main areas of the Oceans Campaign and ended with the adoption of the [Belmopan Plan of Action](#).

## ENDING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

The IUU Fishing project aims to raise awareness about the benefits of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Cape Town Agreement on Fishing Vessel Safety, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s Port State Measures Agreement and the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s Work in Fishing Convention and support MPs with technical assistance towards their efforts on achieving new ratifications and implementations.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout early 2021, PGA worked with MPs in **Argentina, Belize, Cape Verde, Chile, Fiji, the Maldives, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe** and **South Africa** to sensitize them to the three treaties and identify follow up actions using PGA's [Parliamentary Toolkit on Ending IUU Fishing](#), as well as letters from PGA's President, Treasurer and Secretary-General and a new [factsheet](#) on the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic on the Cape Town Agreement. As a result of these efforts, PGA received requests for technical assistance to draft parliamentary questions on CTA ratification in both English and Spanish from **Argentina, Cape Verde, Chile** and the **Maldives**, which were subsequently [submitted](#) to their respective governments.



In **Belize**, PGA Executive Committee member Hon. Valerie Woods (who was elected as Speaker of the House of Representatives in December 2020), organized a meeting with the Prime Minister, the Minister of the Blue Economy and Civil Aviation and the Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction to discuss a timeline for ratification. The government also shared this timeline with the IMO.

In **Cape Verde**, Hon. Dora Oriana, MP and PGA member posed a parliamentary question to the Minister of Maritime Economy. The Minister subsequently mentioned his support for the CTA and that Cape Verde's ratification procedure is now under the portfolio of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. While proceedings were delayed by the global COVID-19 pandemic the members of the PGA Cape Verde National Group recommitted to its ratification in mid-2021.

In the **Maldives**, the government formally responded to the parliamentary question by PGA Executive Committee member Hon. Rozaina Adam, MP in January 2021 and informed 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. Hon Adam and the President of PGA

followed up in March 2021 in a letter to encourage increased cooperation between the IMO and the Maldives Transport Authority to conduct the ongoing analysis of the implications of ratification of the Cape Town Agreement.

The PGA Secretariat and the PGA **Ecuador** National Group organized a [virtual briefing on 10 June 2021](#) on the importance of the Cape Town Agreement, identifying and discussing existing obstacles to its ratification in the country and utilizing the [IUU Toolkit](#) in Spanish as a resource. Subsequently, parliamentary questions were posed to the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility](#) and [Ministry of Transportation and Public Works](#) in September 2021.

On 26 August 2021, PGA hosted a [meeting](#) of the PGA **Argentina** National Group, with participants including representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and 42 member-parliamentarians, to discuss the importance of the CTA and particularly in the context of their country as well as next steps to make progress.

Additionally, current PGA President Hon. Kasthuri Patto, MP (**Malaysia**) [published an Op-ed](#) emphasizing the need to allow parliament to meet, citing PGA's June 2019 forum with government agencies for the Protection of Oceans and the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals SDG14 in the Malaysian Parliament, which was held when parliament was not in session.

All questions posed by PGA members and responses received are [available for download](#).

## INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES (SSF)

The Small-Scale fisheries project seeks to identify legal instruments and regulatory language to strengthen the Rule of Law in coastal fisheries management as well as provide technical assistance to members of parliament seeking to implement the relevant legislation.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In February 2021, PGA and the Environmental Law Institute jointly published a comprehensive toolkit, [Strengthening Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries](#).



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

 **DOWNLOAD**

PGA's work on SSF was also featured at the [CAP-Oceans](#) at PGA's [42nd Annual Parliamentary Forum](#) during the session on "Protecting Fish Workers, Empowering Fishing Communities and Securing the Right to Food" with panels on "Empowering Fisher Communities: A Rights-based Approach to Fisheries Management" featuring Hon. Faith Muthambi, MP (**South Africa**) and Dr. Atanasio Brito,

Senior Director of the **Mozambique** Program at RARE and "Sustainable Financing for the Long-term Stewardship of Small-Scale Fisheries and Marine Protected Areas" with Dr. Xiao Recio Blanco, Director of the Ocean Program at the Environmental Law Institute.

## MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The Marine Protected Areas project works towards the protection of 30% of the ocean by 2030 through the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to ensure the health of both the ocean and those who rely on it.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA partnered with the Blue Nature Alliance with a pilot project on MPAs in the **Seychelles**. The PGA Secretariat worked with PGA Executive Committee member Hon. Bernard Georges, MP (Seychelles) to raise the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning Initiative (SMSPI), a process focused on planning and management of the sustainable and long-term use and health of the Seychelles exclusive economic zone at its parliamentary caucus meeting in September 2021. The meeting was attended by 26 MPs.

Hon. Georges used the political will in support of MPAs generated from this meeting to meet with government officials on the issue, including the Minister of Blue Economy and Fisheries and the Minister of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment.

In October 2021, the President of PGA sent a letter to the global PGA network announcing the MPA project and encouraging all member-parliamentarians to engage with PGA on how they can support the goal of 30% by 2030.

PGA's project in the Seychelles was highlighted as a best practise example of how parliamentarians can support the 30% commitment and ocean conservation. PGA also shared a new factsheet on Sustainably Managed Marine Protected Areas and Climate Change in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



SUSTAINABLY MANAGED MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: A FACTSHEET FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

 **DOWNLOAD**

Following the Annual Forum, PGA published a new webpage on [Conserving 30 Percent of the Ocean by 2030 – Implementation of SDG 14.2 and 14.5](#) with an interactive map analyzing Marine Protected Area coverage by country.

## IMPACTS OF DEEP SEABED MINING

The Deep Seabed Mining project aims to ensure that exploration and, if appropriate, limited exploitation of the Deep Sea.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA joined the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition in 2021, launching this project at PGA's Second CAP-Oceans with an in depth conversation between PGA Treasurer Ms. Petra Bayr, MP (Austria) and Ms. Sian Owen, Director of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition on the irreversible damage caused by deep-sea mining, the effects it may have on fish-stocks and the impact on the livelihoods of those people that depend on fish as their main source of income and protein. PGA also highlighted a new factsheet on Protecting the Deep Seabed in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). As outcome of CAP-Oceans, PGA members committed to working together towards a moratorium on Deep Seabed Mining.



## INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY PROGRAMME

# CAMPAIGN ADDRESSING THE THREAT OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The Campaign Addressing the Threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) seeks to contribute to a reduction in the threat of proliferation of WMD, including biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological agents with the potential to indiscriminately inflict widespread human and economic devastation and destruction.

## INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY PROGRAMME

16A

# CAMPAIGN FOR BIOLOGICAL SECURITY AND HEALTH

The [Biological Security and Health Campaign](#) seeks to contribute to a reduction in the threat posed by, as well as proliferation of, biological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The severe threat to humanity posed by the acquisition, possession, manufacture and use of WMD by States and by Non-State Actors, including terrorist organizations, combined with the onset of more sophisticated and complex terrorism threats and actions in recent years, including as an offshoot outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic, has renewed interest in, and commitment, to ensuring greater global participation in, and implementation of, the Biological Weapons Convention, as well as implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on prevention of proliferation of WMD to Non State Actors.



**“Once again, COVID-19 has also served to remind everyone - in no uncertain terms - that when we talk of biological threats and potential weaponization of disease - these are not abstract or esoteric threats. They are real and they are present - today.**

**COVID-19 has also opened the eyes of non-state actors, including terrorist organizations, to the potential for devastation caused by biological threats and disease. Not only that, but other Weapons of Mass Destruction, and their potential misuse by terrorists, cannot be overlooked. Nuclear and radioactive weapons fall into this category.”**

- Sen. Wade Mark (Trinidad and Tobago)

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout 2021, and in its sustained efforts to promote universality and implementation of both the BWC and UNSCR 1540, PGA's conducted numerous virtual National meetings with MPs in **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe**, in addition to maintaining substantive exchanges with MPs in **Benin, Botswana, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles and South Sudan**.

As follow up to these strategic events and actions, PGA also prepared 28 National Action Plans highlighting specific steps that can be taken in each respective country to ratify/accede to/ and/or implement the BWC as well as to improve implementation of UNSCR 1540, as appropriate, in each country, subsequently shared with MPs from the countries in question. PGA's efforts, combined with outreach conducted by several other organizations and stakeholders, contributed to generating political will leading to the submission by both **Botswana and Sierra Leone** of requests for assistance to the UNSCR 1540 Committee. Similarly, during 2021, **Benin, Eswatini and Seychelles** all nominated national points of contact to the UNSCR 1540 Committee.

On 1 December 2021, PGA member Hon. Ivone Soares, MP (Mozambique) informed PGA that, following a question she made in the National Assembly of **Mozambique**, and after 6 months of intensive joint outreach to relevant government officials, the Prime Minister of Mozambique signaled that the country had submitted its First National Report on Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 to the UN Security Council 1540 Committee.

In February 2021, PGA published its Parliamentary Handbook on the *Role of Women Parliamentarians in Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction*. It is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Arabic](#) and highlights how women are disproportionately impacted by WMD as well as the different ways in which women parliamentarians can make decisive contributions in prevention of proliferation of WMD. The Handbook was officially launched at PGA's [webinar](#) on "*The Role of Parliamentarians in Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Promoting a Ban on Fully Autonomous Weapons*." Subsequently, the Handbook received considerable positive feedback, including from the Parliament of **Costa Rica** and the Senate of **Belize**.



PARLIAMENTARY HANDBOOK ON THE  
ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS  
IN PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF  
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

In **Nigeria**, PGA Member Hon. Abdul'razak Namdas, MP, re-introduced on 27 February 2021 a Bill in the House of Representatives to Prohibit Chemical and Biological Weapons and Establish the National Authority for the Effective Implementation of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions in Nigeria and For Related Matters. The Bill scaled Second Reading as of 23 March 2021. While still pending, PGA continues to liaise with the PGA Nigeria National Group to identify possible ways to revive this crucial draft legislation. In **Namibia**, the National Assembly endorsed on 2 December 2021



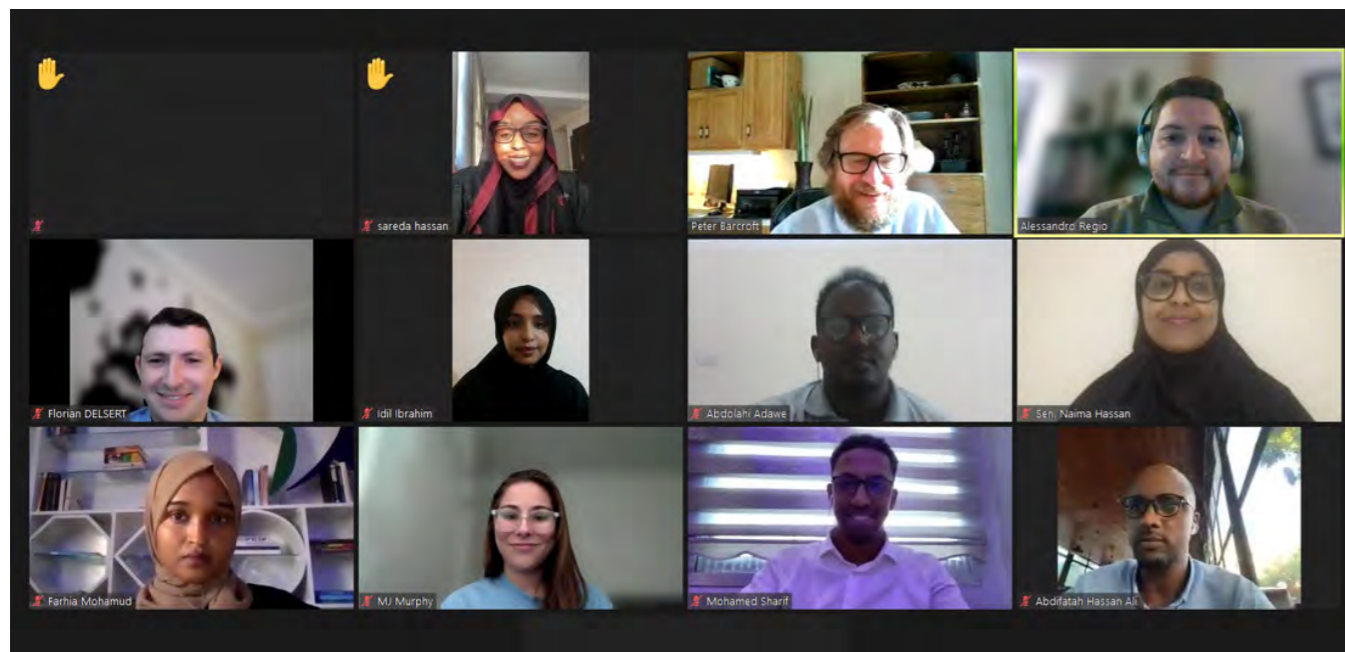
“Saúdo a publicação do Primeiro Relatório Nacional de Moçambique ao Comité 1540 do Conselho de Segurança das Nações Unidas, tal como apresentado pela Missão Permanente de Moçambique às Nações Unidas a 22 de Novembro de 2021. Como membro da PGA, e juntamente com a PGA, ao longo dos últimos 6 meses, tenho tido o prazer de encorajar o Governo de Moçambique a dar este importante passo, no cumprimento das nossas obrigações legais internacionais e como uma importante contribuição para a paz e segurança internacionais.”

[I welcome the publication of Mozambique's First National Report to the 1540 Committee of the United Nations Security Council, as submitted by the Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations on 22 November 2021. As a member of PGA, and together with PGA, over the past 6 months, I have been pleased to encourage the Government of Mozambique to take this important step, in fulfilling our international legal obligations and as an important contribution to international peace and security.]

- Hon. Ivone Soares, MP (Mozambique)

a formal request for approval from the Deputy Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs that Namibia be allowed to accede to the BWC. PGA Member Hon. Hamunyera Hambyuka, MP is following up directly on this matter with the Minister for International Relations in early February 2022. It is hoped that Namibia will deposit its Instrument of Accession to the BWC during the course of 2022.

On 15 December 2021, PGA held a successful webinar, together with CRDF Global, on the *Implementation of International Biological Security Frameworks | Promoting Engagement between Somali Legislators, Somali Civil Society, the Somali Scientific Community and Public Health sector*. This webinar generated significant awareness and interest in promoting universality of the BWC and submission of **Somalia's** First National Report to the UNSCR 1540 Committee, at such time as political circumstances become more conducive to doing so, given that 2021 was a challenging electoral year for the federal state of Somalia. PGA will continue similar such activities in 2022.



PGA co-organized with CRDF Global a virtual workshop on “The Role of Somali Civil Society in Promoting Biological Security and Biosafety Practices.”



## INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY PROGRAMME

16B

# CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL SECURITY

Launched in March 2021, PGA's [Nuclear and Radiological Security Campaign](#) seeks to address the fact that a large number of States worldwide have yet to become States Parties and/or fully implement The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), its Amendment and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA organized an [African Virtual Regional Meeting](#) with PGA Membership and other like-minded Members of Parliament, in African States that are Non-States Parties to ICSANT and/or CPPNM and/or its Amendment on 16 June 2021. Participants included MPs from **Botswana, Burkina Faso Central African Republic, the Gambia, Nigeria, Somalia, Togo** and **Zimbabwe**, as well as representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). A representative from the Radiation Protection Inspectorate of Botswana was also in attendance. PGA followed up with concrete outreach. **Botswana** acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on 12 July 2021. In addition, PGA membership in **Central African Republic, Seychelles** and **Tanzania** have undertaken to engage in further outreach to promote accession to the aforementioned treaties, as applicable.

The Director of the Radiation Protection Authority of **Zimbabwe**, who participated in this event, informed those in attendance that his office was currently working on internal processes in seeking to make progress towards accession to the CPPNM and its Amendment. The government of **Zimbabwe** [acceded](#) to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) on 20 September 2021. On 23 September 2021, **Rwanda** acceded to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (ACPPNM). PGA maintained prior email correspondence with the Parliament of Rwanda in this same matter earlier in 2021 and urging engagement, following a decision by the government to move forward in December 2020.

PGA held a [Regional Caribbean Webinar](#) in which MPs from **Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname** and **Trinidad and Tobago**, in addition to representatives from the IAEA and UNODC participated. PGA organized a third event in the series, a [Regional Virtual Asia Workshop](#), together with UNODC and IAEA, in which MPs as well as representatives from relevant government agencies from **Cambodia** (CBRN Division), the **Maldives** (National Counter-Terrorism Division of Ministry of Defense) and the **Philippines** participated. PGA also organized a Regional Virtual Latin American Workshop, together with UNODC and IAEA in which Members of Parliament from **Latin America** participated.

## TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

PGA members in **Chile**, the **Philippines** and **Seychelles** contributed to different national processes leading to ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by their respective governments during the course of 2021.

## INTERNATIONAL PEACE &amp; SECURITY PROGRAMME

## GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVE

The [Global Cybersecurity Initiative](#) was launched by PGA in cooperation with the Council of Europe in 2021, and taking into account the exponential growth in global cybersecurity threats in the past 12 months, seeks to address the fact that a large number of States worldwide have yet to become States Parties and/or fully implement the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its Additional Protocols.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA launched a series of joint webinars with the Council of Europe on 13 July 2021 with the [African Webinar Promoting Universality and Implementation of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its Additional Protocol/s](#). It was attended by MPs from 11 countries, including **Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo** and **Zimbabwe**. Participants were sensitized to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its First Additional Protocol concerning the criminalization of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems. Participants discussed the role parliamentarians can play in promoting ratification of the Budapest Convention and the First Additional Protocol as well as steps that can be taken to encourage adoption and implementation of enabling national legislation.



This inaugural event was followed in September 2021 by the [Regional Caribbean parliamentary webinar to promote Universality and Implementation of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its Additional Protocols](#). Through this event, PGA facilitated connections with the Council of Europe and PGA member-parliamentarians from **Grenada, Saint Lucia, Suriname** and **Trinidad and Tobago**.

It was noted that Trinidad and Tobago was invited to accede to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime in October 2021.

On 8 December 2021, PGA and the Council of Europe held the third event in this series, a [Regional Parliamentary Webinar to Promote Universality and Implementation of The Budapest Convention on](#)

[Cybercrime in the Asia/Pacific Region](#) with parliamentarians from **Cambodia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines** and the **Seychelles**. PGA provided follow up actions the MPs could take within their respective countries.

The final event in this [joint series of webinars](#) promoting universality and implementation of the Budapest Convention and its Additional Protocols will be held in March 2022 with a particular focus on **Latin America**, and in close collaboration with the PGA **Argentina** National Group.



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

17

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 (SALW), promoting implementation of the UN Programme of Action Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as continued promotion of the universality and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA organized a [virtual workshop](#), “Catalysts, Campaigners, and Champions of Change - Convening Mobilizing and Enabling Women Parliamentarians in Africa in Addressing Needs Identified in Requests for International Assistance in 2018 National Reports on the Implementation of the UN Programme,” on 8 April 2021. Parliamentarians from **Mali, Somalia, Togo, Tunisia** and **Zimbabwe** discussed and reviewed the United Nations Programme of Action Addressing the Illicit Trade on SALW and the International Tracing Instrument, the role of women in the negotiation and mediation in post-conflict situations, following adoption of UNSCR Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent relevant resolutions, identifying different steps participants could take in the context of their own respective countries. PGA followed up with individual correspondence with all participants as well as PGA members in **Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Somalia, Togo, Tunisia** and **Zimbabwe** who registered for the workshop but were unable to attend due to technical issues, with specific follow up actions tailored to the particular situations in their countries.

Subsequently, the National Assembly of **Burkina Faso** [adopted](#) on 18 May 2021 a Bill on the General Regime for Firearms, their Parts and Components, Ammunition and other related materials. Hon. Reine Sakande, member of the National Assembly’s Defense and Security Committee and PGA member advocated for the adoption of this bill, which will be instrumental in supporting the fight against illicit arms trafficking in the country and region.

At the 7th Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty in August 2021, the government of the **Gambia** announced its intention to [accede to the ATT](#), reiterating that it has been a strong supporter of the work of the ATT and formally established a national commission on Small Arms and Light

Weapons. PGA membership, led by (now former) MP Hon. Dawda Jawara, engaged in outreach to promote accession to the ATT. Having made this announcement in August 2021, it is hoped that the government of the Gambia will deposit its Instrument of Accession to the ATT during the course of 2022, after relevant transmission of the instrument to the Parliament and consequent adoption by parliamentarians with active engagement of the PGA member.

On 26 May 2021, a [second virtual workshop](#), “Catalysts, Campaigners, and Champions of Change - Convening Mobilizing and Enabling Women Parliamentarians in South Asia in Addressing Needs Identified in Requests for International Assistance in 2020 National Reports on the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW and the International Tracing Instrument” was organized by PGA following up on the progress of the [Regional South and South East Asia Workshop](#) on Promoting Engagement of Women Parliamentarians in Addressing the Illicit Trade in SALW held in Kuala Lumpur in January 2020. Parliamentarians from **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Malaysia** and **Pakistan** attended. PGA, in turn, followed up with individual correspondence with both participants but also PGA Membership in **Indonesia**, the **Maldives, Nepal** and the **Philippines**, as well as an MP in **Thailand** who were unable to attend the workshop.

In September 2021, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate of the **Philippines** approved the ratification of the ATT. Since 2018, PGA has worked closely with former Senator and PGA member Mr. Antonio Trillanes IV in providing technical assistance on the Arms Trade Treaty upon request, including addressing potential misconceptions surrounding its scope and purpose. PGA has also provided extensive background information addressing misinformation/misconceptions surrounding the ATT to PGA member Senator Risa Hontiveros. The Plenary of the Senate subsequently gave its concurrence to [ratification of the ATT](#) by the Philippines in January 2022.

The government of **Gabon** decided to proceed to [ratification of the ATT](#) on 17 December 2021. Dep. Noël Nelson Messone, PGA member, former Foreign Minister of Gabon and current member Vice Chair of the Foreign Relations and Defence Committee corresponded with PGA in October 2021, in which PGA gave extensive guidance pertaining to the ATT, including encouraging advocacy in support of its ratification as well as further step-taking to promote implementation of the UN Programme of Action Addressing the Illicit Trade in SALW.



photo arben llapashtica



# PARTNERS AND DONORS

## CORE DONORS

### DANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(for PGA work related to the SDGs)

### OAK FOUNDATION

### SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)

### STEWART R. MOTT FOUNDATION

## CAMPAIGN & PROGRAMME DONORS

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / EUROPEAN UNION

UN TRUST FACILITY SUPPORTING COOPERATION ON ARMS REGULATION (UNSCAR)

### FOUNDATIONS

ARCUS FOUNDATION

RAYMOND & ELIZABETH BLOCH  
FOUNDATION

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

SIGRID RAUSING TRUST

### MULTI-PARTNER COALITIONS

BLUE NATURE ALLIANCE

DEEP SEA CONSERVATION COALITION

### GOVERNMENTS

GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NETHERLANDS

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NORWAY

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SWITZERLAND

PERMANENT MISSION OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UN

US STATE DEPARTMENT (BIOSECURITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM) WITH CRDF GLOBAL

## PRO BONO LEGAL SUPPORT

MR. PAUL DELOO

PARTNER

BUREN ADVOCATEN, THE HAGUE

MR. MARTIN DOMB

PARTNER

AKERMAN LLP

MR. CHARLES KNAPP

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, NEW YORK

TRUSTLAW

DLA PIPER NEDERLAND N.V.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

**PGA audited accounts are available upon request.**

**Please contact:**

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

*In 2021, PGA continued its work with the PGA Ukraine National Group – a multi-party group of MPs – and partner-NGOs. Achievements on the domestic implementation of the Rome Statute in Ukraine are available on PGA's website.*