



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



National Assembly
of Belize

42ND ANNUAL FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA)



DAY 1:
16 DECEMBER 2021

The Antidote to
Authoritarianism:
Parliamentarians
as champions of
democratic principles
and institutions



8 AM – 11:30 AM (EST)



ONLINE EVENT
CO-HOSTED BY THE
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AND HUMAN RIGHTS](#)

The years 2020 and 2021 have been characterized by the global crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic. Governments have taken emergency measures in the name of curtailing the spread of the virus. Concomitantly, civilians worldwide have dealt with violations of their fundamental human rights including civil and political rights – which resulted in further discrimination and oppression of vulnerable populations – and witnessed the erosion of democratic principles and institutions and the rise of authoritarianism.

Globally, democracy is in decline. This trend is aggravated by the dangerous rise in disinformation, the dismantling of protections for press freedom, including the weaponization of the media to attack individuals or groups perceived as a threat, and the decreasing independence of the judiciary. In certain regions, authoritarian regimes have gained momentum in the political arena by leading their populations with fear, which has contributed to the radicalization of the political landscape. Social media has modified the nature of the public discourse and the way information is shared between the citizenry and their government; authoritarian governments have also capitalized on the use of social media platforms to spread misinformation and propaganda. Media freedom has become increasingly important to ensure that populations are informed and consequently can act to protect fundamental as well as civil and political rights.

Despite numerous setbacks, parliamentarians play a key role in protecting democracy and human rights. As representatives of the democratic branch closest to citizens, legislators can resist attacks on democracy, shape national agendas, resist executive incursions, and work with civil society to preserve the civic and political spaces, even if increasingly, they themselves are at risk in contexts of democratic backsliding. Democracy is a resilient form of governance and is to be supported by all.

The 42nd Annual Forum is made possible thanks to the core support of:

Stewart R. Mott Foundation, Sida - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency,



and the campaign support of:





DAY I - 16 DECEMBER 2021



8:00-8:15 – OPENING SESSION

HON. VALERIE WOODS

Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belize

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

President of PGA; President, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly



8:15-8:25 - KEYNOTE REMARKS

PROF. THOMAS CAROTHERS

Harvey V. Fineberg Chair for Democratic Studies, Senior Vice President for Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Outcome of the U.S. Summit for Democracy and the role of gender representation to prevent the repression of women and girls



8.25-8.30 - VIRTUAL GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

8:30-9:40 - PANEL I. COVID-19 AND THE RISE OF AUTHORITARIANISM WORLDWIDE

CHAIRPERSON: HON. KASTHURI PATTO, MP (MALAYSIA)

Distinguished Panel:

MR. CLÉMENT NYALETSOSSI VOULE

*Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
Researcher, Geneva Academy of International Law;
Senior Advisor, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)*

VIDEO PRESENTATION

Violations of civil and political rights:

What has the UN system done to raise awareness and curtail their effect on democracy and vulnerable populations?

HON. ESTHER CUESTA, MP (ECUADOR)

*President, Parliamentary Group for the Rights of People in Human Mobility of the National Assembly;
Chairperson, PGA Ecuador National Group*

Testimony on the situation in Ecuador and the attacks against women parliamentarians and women rights defenders

DR. TOM DALY

*Deputy Director, University of Melbourne School of Government,
Director, Democratic Decay & Renewal (DEM-DEC) and COVID-DEM*

Has the recession of American and European leadership weakened democracies and emboldened "autocratic" regimes?

**HON. ANITA VANDENBELD,
MP (CANADA)**

*Member of the House of Commons,
Founding Member of the PGA Parliamentary Response Team (PARRT)*

Social media platforms have become a tool for governments, interest groups and individuals to disseminate propaganda and incite to violence, and compromise the integrity of electoral processes. What is the impact on established liberal democracies and on regimes charting a path toward democracy? What are the tools available to prevent and limit damages?



**9:20-9:30 – BRIEF COMMENTARIES, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
MODERATED BY HON. KASTHURI PATTO**

**9:40-11:00 - PANEL II. THE ROLE OF LEGISLATORS IN RECLAIMING THEIR DEMOCRATIC SPACE AS
THE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTING THE PEOPLES**

- *The Global Parliamentary Code of Democratic Conduct*
- *PGA's Parliamentary Toolkit For Democratic Renewal (Relevant Drafting-Process Is Currently In Progress)*
- *Examples Of Legislative Reforms That Can Inject Strength And Resilience in the Independent Functioning of Judicial And Prosecutorial Authorities to Ensure That the Rule of Law Is The Most Solid Defence Against Attacks on Democracy*

**CHAIRPERSON: HON. ROZAINA ADAM, MP (MALDIVES);
FOUNDING MEMBER, PGA PARLIAMENTARY RAPID RESPONSE TEAM (PARRT)**

Presentation of PGA's Global Parliamentary Code of Democratic Conduct and invitation to all MPs to (i) individually sign it and (ii) make use of it inviting other MPs and candidates to sign it

Distinguished Panel:

PROF. IRWIN COTLER

*Chairperson, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights (RWCHR);
Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism;
Member, High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom;
Former MP and Minister of Justice/Attorney General of Canada*

*What has been done internationally to support countries civilians in repressive regimes?
And how can parliamentarians further amplify the actions of the international community?
What can legislators do to strengthen the independence of the Judiciary?*

PROF. STAFFAN I. LINDBERG

Director, V-Dem Institute

What does the data say about the current state of democracy worldwide? What indicators should legislators consider when drafting legislation related to their democratic processes and institutions?

HON. LAURA BOLDRINI, MP (ITALY)

*Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee,
Former Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies*

*Using internet and social media to undermine Democracy.
The role of Parliamentarians in legislating on social media abuse.*

**HON. MARCELO COSSAR, MP
(ARGENTINA)**

Provincial Legislator, President of the JUNTOS UCR Block - Legislature of Córdoba. Former Secretary of Modernization, Communication and Strategic Development.

*Manipulating Information and Communication Technology (ICT):
Safeguarding the right to privacy and freedom of expression in democratic systems.*

MS. SANDRA PEPERA

*Senior Associate and Director for Gender, Women and Democracy,
National Democratic Institute (NDI)*

*What can legislators do to support the fundamental human rights
of women and girls in a difficult and repressive context?*



10:45-11:15 – COMMENTARIES AND TESTIMONIES, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Voices of Parliamentarians from the PGA global network from all regions of the world including:

Afghanistan

Burundi

Central African Republic

El Salvador

Somalia

The Philippines

Tunisia

Venezuela

Zimbabwe



**11:15-11:25 – SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS AND OPERATIONAL COMMENTARIES BY THE
RAPPORTEURS DR. DAVID DONAT-CATTIN (SECRETARY-GENERAL, PGA) AND MS. MELISSA VERPILE
(DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL & HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN, PGA)**



**11:25-11:30 – CONCLUDING REMARKS BY HON. NAVEED QAMAR, MP (PAKISTAN); CHAIRPERSON OF
THE PGA INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL**

ABOUT PGA

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is the largest non-governmental, cross-party, international network of individual legislators with over 1,200 members in 132 countries around the world.

PGA mobilizes parliamentarians as champions committed to promoting the rule of law, democracy, human security, non-discrimination, inclusion, and gender equality. By using a peer-to-peer methodology and country-specific strategies, PGA educates, sensitizes, and builds the technical capacity of parliamentarians to take concrete initiatives and legislative actions to achieve results on campaign objectives.

PGA supports individual parliamentarians in their national contexts and parliaments, and leverages that capacity with international networking to support democracy, human rights, and peace. The organization's vision is to contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe, and democratic world.

PGA is in general consultative status with the United Nations with headquarters in New York. Its office in The Hague, Netherlands, fosters cooperation with The Hague-based International Organizations. PGA is represented at the country level by National Groups in parliaments, which creates sustainability and ownership of issues.



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DAY 2:
17 DECEMBER 2021

Second International
Parliamentary Oceans
Day



8 AM – 11:45 AM (EST)



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[CAMPAIGN FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
THE OCEANS AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF
SDG 14](#)

The global COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted fisheries and aquaculture food systems. Necessary and life-saving protective measures taken by governments have disrupted national and international seafood supply chains. Fisheries management processes have been adversely impacted in an industry already challenged by hazardous working conditions and other human rights violations. Parliamentarians are in the best position to provide long-lasting solutions that protect fish workers, empower impoverished fishing communities, and secure the right to food.

The Oceans absorb nearly one-third of carbon dioxide emissions and roughly 90% of the excess heat retained by greenhouse gases. Establishing Marine Protected Area networks is critical to maintaining climate change resilience and rebuilding ecological and social resilience. PGA has therefore engaged in a new partnership with the Blue Nature Alliance, highlighting combined efforts to protect 30% of the Oceans by 2030.

Issues for Discussion:

Following up on the commitments made at the first International Parliamentary Oceans Day, lawmakers will work together on exploring 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.

The 42nd Annual Forum is made possible thanks to the core support of:
Sida - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency



and the campaign support of:

Blue Nature Alliance | Deep Sea Conservation Coalition | Environmental Law Institute | The Pew Charitable Trusts





DAY 2 - 17 DECEMBER 2021

8:00-8:15 INTRODUCTION

Opening Remarks

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

President of PGA; President, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly

Keynote Address

**SEN. OSMANY SALAS
(BELIZE)**

*Non-Governmental Organizations Representative,
Member of PGA*

8:15-9:15 **SESSION I: CONSERVING OUR OCEANS TO BUILD RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE
- PROTECTING 30% BY 2030**

**CO-CHAIRS: HON. KASTHURI PATTO, MP (MALAYSIA), MEMBER OF PGA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE;
DIP. GRACIELA CAMAÑO (ARGENTINA), MEMBER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
CONSERVATION OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT OF SPECIAL
MODERNIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARY FUNCTIONING, MEMBER OF PGA**

Establishing a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Seychelles

**HON. BERNARD GEORGES, MP
(SEYCHELLES)**

*Parliamentary Leader of Government Business,
Member of PGA*

Global Efforts towards reaching 30% by 2030

**DIP. ALFREDO PACHECO
(DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)**

*President of Chamber of Deputies,
President of Committee on Internal Administration,
Member of PGA*

**DIP. JUAN CRISTÓBAL LLORET
(ECUADOR)**

*Member of Commission of Biodiversity and Natural Resources,
Member of PGA*

**HON. ANGELA BROWN-BURKE
(JAMAICA)**

Member of PGA

**HON. HAMUNYERA HAMBYUKA,
MP (NAMIBIA)**

*Government Chief Whip,
Member of PGA*

MR. JOAQUÍN LABOUGLE

*Latin America & Caribbean Regional Program Officer,
Blue Nature Alliance*



9:15-9:45

DISCUSSION AMONG PARTICIPANTS

9:45-10:30 SESSION II: PROTECTING FISH WORKERS, EMPOWERING FISHING COMMUNITIES, AND SECURING THE RIGHT TO FOOD

**CO-CHAIRS: HON. CATARINA DIMANDE, MP (MOZAMBIQUE), CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, COOPERATION AND COMMUNITIES;
& HON. MILLIE ODHIAMBO, MP (KENYA), MEMBER OF PGA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Empowering Fisher Communities: A Rights-based Approach to Fisheries Management

**HON. FAITH MUTHAMBI, MP
(SOUTH AFRICA)**

Chair of Portfolio Committee on Environment Forestry and Fisheries

ATANASIO BRITO, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Mozambique Program, RARE/Fish Forever

Sustainable Financing for the Long-term Stewardship of Small-Scale Fisheries and Marine Protected Areas

XIAO RECIO BLANCO, Ph.D.

Director of Ocean Program, Environmental Law Institute

Ratifying the IMO's Cape Town Agreement – A deadline of less than 1 year

HON. SEMI KOROILAVESAU, MP (FIJI)

Minister of Fisheries

**HON. KWAME ANYIMADU-ANTWI,
MP (GHANA)**

*Chair of the Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee,
Member of PGA*

MR. JOHANNES MUZANIMA

*Chief Ship Surveyor,
Ministry of Works and Transport of the Republic of Namibia*



10:30-11:00

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

11:00-11:20 LAUNCH OF PGA'S PROJECT ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE DEEP SEABED

SIAN OWEN

Director, Deep Sea Conversation Coalition

MS. PETRA BAYR, MP (AUSTRIA)

PGA Treasurer



11.20-11:30

ADOPTION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION - SUMMARY BY THE RAPPORTEURS
CO-RAPPORTEURS: DAVID DONAT CATTIN, Ph.D., PGA SECRETARY-GENERAL;
MS. LEYLA NIKJOU (LL.M), SENIOR ADVISOR, PGA OCEANS CAMPAIGN



11:30-11:45

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE HOSTS
HON. NAVEED QAMAR, MP (PAKISTAN), MEMBER OF THE PGA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE;
HON. VALERIE WOODS, SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF BELIZE, MEMBER OF THE PGA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND

The future of sustainable small-scale fisheries (SSF) is inextricably linked to all other areas of maritime governance – from illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

IUU fishing is widely associated with human rights' violations and crimes such as piracy, forced labour, human trafficking, and arms and narcotics smuggling. Its ability to undermine national and regional efforts to manage fisheries, as well as efforts to conserve marine biodiversity, make IUU fishing one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems. IUU fishing occurs in all dimensions of fisheries: the high seas, areas within national jurisdiction, and all stages of the capture and utilization of seafood. Those involved in IUU fishing take advantage of administrations and management regimes that lack the capacity and resources for effective monitoring, control, and surveillance. As a result, fisheries resources typically available to *bona-fide* fishers are removed by IUU fishing, leading to the collapse of local fisheries. This especially impacts small-scale fisheries.¹

MPA management benefits from the involvement of local fishers in the impact on marine conservation, but also can generate socioeconomic benefits for the fishers themselves. In turn, small-scale fisheries are successfully managed when fishers are actively engaged in MPA management practices. Since fishers are key actors in SSF management, constructive interactions with MPA management bodies are crucial to successful SSF management. This includes enforcement of fisheries rules within MPAs, SSF catch data collection for scientific monitoring, and the promotion of sustainable fisheries initiatives.² Research has shown, for example in the Mediterranean, that fish stocks are healthier, fishers' incomes are higher, and the social acceptance of management practices is fostered if: MPAs are highly enforcement; there is an MPA management plan; fishers are engaged in MPA management; fishers are represented in the MPA board; and sustainable fishing practices are promoted.³

1 www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/en/

2 www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/fishmpablue_7_final_brochure_en.pdf

3 www.nature.com/articles/srep38135#citeas

BACKGROUND

Deep seabed mining (DSM), which is the process of mining the deep seabed to access mineral deposits, has not yet begun on a commercial scale but will have unknown detrimental effects on large portions of the Ocean.⁴ As the world's largest biome, the deep sea not only accounts for 90 percent of the marine environment, but is also one of the most inaccessible areas on earth. Many experts urge extreme caution, considering the inevitable and likely irreversible biodiversity loss if deep-sea mining is permitted.⁵ As part of the balanced ecosystem that sustains both our planet and numerous livelihoods, DSM can have a significantly negative impact on various areas, including the immense impact diminished fish stocks will have on communities that depend on fish as their main source of protein or income.

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) provide their communities with a vital source of protein and can be essential to individual and community livelihoods. Because of the social and economic importance of SSF it is necessary to protect access to the fisheries resources on which communities depend through increased sustainability. SSF provide employment and nutrition to millions of coastal families and communities as well as generating income that contributes to national economies. Approximately half of those employed in SSF are women presenting opportunities for women's economic empowerment. However, SSF are not without their challenges. Rapid technological and societal change have affected traditional practices and jeopardized the small-scale fishers access to fisheries resources. Decades of over-exploitation of the marine environment threaten the ecosystems traditionally harvested by SSF.

Each of these aspects of maritime governance contribute to a more sustainable future for the Ocean and its resources, and protect the lives and livelihoods of those who depend on the Ocean. An inclusive and integrated approach to maritime governance makes for more effective Marine Protected Areas, protection against IUU fishing, a moratorium on deep seabed mining, and sustainability of small-scale fisheries.

4 www.savethehighseas.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DSCC_FactSheet2_DSM_science_4pp_web.pdf

5 www.savethehighseas.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DSCC_FactSheet1_DSM_intro_2pp_web.pdf