

WHY UNIVERSALITY MATTERS:

THE IMPORTANCE OF RATIFYING THE ROME STATUTE, ITS AMENDMENTS, AND THE AGREEMENT ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

22ND ASP

In the context of escalating violence, there is an urgent imperative to prioritize the universality of the Rome Statute system on the international agenda. The adoption of the Rome Statute and all its amendments reflects the international community's determination to ensure that perpetrators of atrocities are held accountable for their actions. Yet, the current level of ratification remains insufficient, necessitating sustained efforts so that the promise of the law can be translated into reality.

In this spirit, Belgium, Switzerland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Korea, Global Rights Compliance (GRC), Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court are jointly organizing a side event focused on the ratification of the Rome Statute, its amendments, and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities as a means to enhance the deterrence of future atrocities and strengthen the protection of civilians.

**Lunch will be served*

AGENDA	FRIDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2023 // 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM EST Permanent Mission of The Netherlands – 666 3rd Ave 19th floor, New York, NY 10017
MODERATOR	Ms. Mónica Adame , Secretary-General, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)
REMARKS BY THE CO-FOCAL POINTS ON UNIVERSALITY	H.E. Henk Cor Van der Kwast , Permanent Representative of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the International Criminal Court, Kingdom of The Netherlands H.E. Hyun Woo Cho , Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Republic of Korea
REMARKS ON UNIVERSALITY	H.E. Piotr Hofmański , President of the International Criminal Court H.E. Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi , President of the Assembly of States Parties H.E. Yeghishe Kirakosyan , Armenian Representative on International Legal Issues Mr. Arie Mora , Communications and Advocacy Manager, Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group (ULAG)
INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR	Ms. Arusyak Julhakyan , Member of the National Assembly of Armenia, PGA member [virtually] Hon. Marwa Abdibashir Hagi , Member of the Federal Parliament of Somalia, PGA member Ms. Esther Cuesta Santana , Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador, PGA Member
REMARKS ON THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ROME STATUTE	H.E. Sandra Lendenmann Winterberg , Deputy Director of the Directorate of International Law, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland H.E. Oliver Belle , Permanent Representative of Belgium to International Institutions in The Hague
REMARKS ON THE AGREEMENT ON PRIVILEGES & IMMUNITIES (APIC)	Mr. Matias Hellman , External Relations Adviser at the Presidency of the International Criminal Court

