



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

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Mobilizing legislators as  
champions for human rights,  
democracy and a sustainable world



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Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar, PGA President

## President's Message

**Dear Colleagues,**

2023 was a difficult year for the causes of democracy, human rights, peace, justice and equality – the very issues that inspire me and my peer-parliamentarians in 150 countries to engage with Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA). These challenges, and the ones that we will face in 2024 – when over 4 billion people go to the polls in the biggest election year in history – make our involvement with PGA even more critical.

Congratulations to the PGA members, Secretariat and experts who contributed to a successful [44<sup>th</sup> Annual Parliamentary Forum](#) hosted by the National Assembly of Seychelles on a virtual platform. Next year, I look forward to seeing you in person at PGA's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Parliamentary Forum/13<sup>th</sup> Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court (CAP-ICC).

The spirit of collective action that characterizes PGA is more important today than ever. Rebecca Hubbard, Executive Director of the High Seas Alliance, remarked in our Annual Forum that she believed the [High Seas Treaty was approved by UN Member States](#) this year primarily as a sign of commitment and hope for the future of multilateral cooperation.

In this challenging time, I am inspired by 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.

In response to the lessons learned from the wisdom of our member-parliamentarians and partners, we have made significant strides in the second year of implementation of our 3-year strategy for 2022-2024, focusing on empowering and mobilizing legislators as champions for human rights, democracy and a sustainable world.

Allow me to highlight a few our achievements:

### Abolition of the Death Penalty Campaign

- The Parliament of Ghana [adopted a Bill](#) abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes, which was assented by the President on August 11, 2023.
- The Parliament of Malaysia [passed two bills](#) abolished the mandatory death penalty for 12 offences.
- The Parliament of Pakistan passed the “[Control of Narcotics Substances Act 2023](#),” which removed capital punishment for drug trafficking convicts. The law was enacted on August 5, 2023.

### Climate Action Campaign

- In March 2023, [Belize became a Party to the Escazú Agreement](#), taking an important step in favor of its people and cementing its environmental and natural resources leadership in the Caribbean.
- Following Belize, the ratification of the Agreement by Grenada deepened the environmental governance in accordance with the protection of human rights in the region.

### Democratic Renewal and Human Rights Campaign

- 116 parliamentarians from 51 countries worldwide signed the [Global Parliamentary Code of Democratic Conduct](#) as of December 2023.
- PGA launched the [Parliamentary Toolbox for Democracy Defense](#) at the [44<sup>th</sup> Annual Parliamentary Forum](#) to aid parliamentarians in detecting early warning signs of democratic backsliding and strengthen democracy.

### International Peace and Security Program

- South Sudan [ratified](#) the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC).
- Zimbabwe [ratified](#) the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment.
- There has also been demonstrable [progress](#) in advancing accession to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime in Africa and the Caribbean.

### Oceans Campaign

- PGA members from 35 countries adopted the [Victoria Plan of Action](#) at the [3<sup>rd</sup> Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the Oceans](#) (CAP-Oceans), thereby committing to promote ratification of the new High Seas Treaty.

### Rome Statute Campaign

- Following the positive ruling by the Armenian Constitutional Court on the compatibility of the Rome Statute with the Armenian Constitution and a PGA field mission, [Armenia deposited the instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute](#) on November 14, 2023. The Rome Statute enters into force for Armenia on February 1, 2024, making Armenia the 124<sup>th</sup> State Party to the Rome Statute.
- As a result of the engagement of PGA members in the country, Uruguay completed its ratification of all amendments to the Rome Statute.

### SOGI Campaign

- On April 14, 2023, the Parliament of Cook Islands [decriminalized consensual same-sex sexual relations](#) by removing a provision of the Crimes Act 1969 that punished homosexuality with up to 5 years in prison. This historic step took place after Sydney WorldPride 2023, in which PGA member and Opposition leader Tina Pupeke Browne, MP, participated as a member of the [PGA delegation from the Pacific](#). Hon. Browne credited the good practices and insights gained in Sydney to her efforts – in partnership with civil society – on decriminalization in her country.

In 2023, we welcomed our new Secretary-General, Mónica Adame, who brings long experience with PGA's work on gender equality and inclusion and a fresh perspective to our work. PGA members around the world join me in thanking our former Secretary-General, David Donat Cattin, for his leadership and expertise on international justice and human rights.

I look forward to working with you in 2024 to contribute to PGA's vision of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe, sustainable and democratic world.

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

**PGA President**



Ms. Mónica Adame, Secretary-General

## Secretary-General's Message

As 2023 came to an end, many of us had a feeling of helplessness. The horrific human rights violations, the pain, loss and devastation in Afghanistan, Gaza, Israel, Iran, Myanmar, Sudan and Ukraine to name a few places have shaken us to our core. The inability of the United Nations system to effectively react and prevent the humanitarian crises unfolding, the incapacity of governments to comply with international humanitarian law and rules of engagement in the protection of civilians appalls us all.

And yet, there is hope.

Countries reached consensus at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) to transition away from fossil fuels to tackle the climate crisis and, earlier in 2023, [adopted the United Nations High Seas Treaty](#) (also known as Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty or BBNJ) to protect marine biodiversity and the health of our oceans and planet for future generations. The High Seas Treaty has been signed by 84 countries and requires the ratification of 60 countries to enter into force. PGA is at the forefront of this [parliamentary mobilization](#).

In this complex landscape, more than 60 countries – representing the majority of the world's population – will hold elections in 2024 – increasing uncertainty in global affairs and multilateral fora. The high level of polarization permeating the national discourse in many countries around the world is giving rise to increased hate speech against 'the other' – whether this prejudice and fear is based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender (including sexual orientation and gender identity/expression), nationality or immigration status among other characteristics – that keep us farther apart from our common denominator as human beings with inherent dignity and rights.

Against this backdrop of political volatility and challenges to multilateralism, in 2024, PGA marks the 45th anniversary of its founding. To keep alive the achievements on human rights of almost 1,200 member-parliamentarians in 150 countries over almost half a century, we must redouble our efforts to advance PGA's core vision *to contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe, sustainable and democratic world*.

We have heard our member-parliamentarians describe their experiences at the front lines of attacks on democracy, whether in Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa or Latin America. In the face of attacks to their role as representatives of the people and the erosion of the principle of separation of powers and checks and balances, PGA members have prioritized dialogue, listening to differing viewpoints and supporting parliamentarians at-risk and human rights defenders through PGA's [Parliamentary Rapid Response Team](#) (PARRT). PGA members have built alliances with civil society representatives to legally [challenge discriminatory and archaic laws](#), as in Uganda with the Anti-Homosexuality Act.

In the midst of it all, our members have remained steadfast in their commitment to democracy and human rights as PGA positions itself as an antidote to executive overreach and closing of civic space, an ally to guarantee freedoms of expression, assembly and of association. We have developed concrete tools to assist parliamentarians in recognizing indicators of democratic backsliding and identify steps to tackle it, such as the [Parliamentary Toolbox for Democratic Defense](#); convened in-person and virtual workshops addressing key global and national issues ranging from environmental and climate governance, women's political leadership and online harassment, sustainable peace (including adequate regulations for nuclear radiological security and cybercrime) and the fight against impunity for the gravest international human rights crimes, among others; and enabled parliamentarians to exchange best practices, challenges and opportunities with each other and civil society activists in their countries.

I invite you to read our annual report to learn about these activities and how you can be an agent of change by participating in our campaigns.

As we work on the next three-year strategic plan for 2025-2027, we remain vigilant to national and global challenges and lessons learned to guide us in preparing our goals and activities in PGA's fields of expertise.

Stay connected with PGA by checking our website for [upcoming activities](#), sharing with us strategies that have been effective in your country and suggestions on how to improve the Secretariat's engagement with you and your peer-parliamentarians.

Let's rebuild trust in our legislatures – a pillar of democratic governance – by strengthening the direct link between elected representatives and citizens. Let's work together to connect and communicate the importance of the international – so removed from the domestic discourse in most countries – to effectively deliver freedoms and rights, as well as access to dignified livelihoods and well-being to everyone in our communities.

We welcome your comments and feedback. I will be delighted to hear from you at [monica.adame@pgaction.org](mailto:monica.adame@pgaction.org).

Wishing you peace and health in the year ahead.

*Abrazo fuerte,*  
**Mónica Adame, PGA Secretary-General**

## 2023 Events and Strategic Actions

### DEMOCRACY, GENDER, AND INCLUSION PROGRAM

CEFM CAMPAIGN, DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL CAMPAIGN, SOGI CAMPAIGN

### HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN, PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS CAMPAIGN

### INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

ROME STATUTE OF THE ICC CAMPAIGN, ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

### INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY PROGRAM

BIOLOGICAL SECURITY AND HEALTH CAMPAIGN, NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL SECURITY CAMPAIGN, GLOBAL CYBERCRIME CAMPAIGN, SALW/ATT CAMPAIGN

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Jan - March	Consultations with NGOs, experts and partners on the realization of a project for an “EU Observatory on the Fight against Impunity”	Virtual
Jan. 12	<u>BUILD TOMORROW – Increasing legitimacy of International Law: The Role of Parliaments</u> (co-organized with the International Law Association French Branch)	Virtual
Jan. 17	Roundtable discussion on a UN Special Rapporteur on <u>Democracy</u> (co-organized by Democracy Without Borders, Community of Democracies, Asia Democracy Network, Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy and Forum 2000)	Virtual
Jan. 25	Promoting Female Parliamentary Engagement in Support of the Silencing the Guns in Africa Initiative	Virtual
Jan. 30	Roundtable Discussion on <u>Protecting Human Rights Defenders of Environmental Matters: The Escazú Agreement</u>	Virtual/Costa Rica
Feb. 9	Biannual Strategic Meeting of PGA UN Advisory Committee (co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN)	New York, United States

Feb. 27	<u>Dialogue on Human Rights and Inclusion for Pacific Parliamentarians and LGBTQI+ activists</u>	Sydney, Australia
Feb. 28	Regional Africa Follow-up Activity to Promote Female Parliamentary Engagement in Support of the Silencing The Guns in Africa Initiative	Virtual
March 2-3	<u>Our Oceans Conference</u>	Panamá, Panama
Mar. 8	Participation in the Commemoration of International Women’s Day (hosted by the Inter-American Human Rights Court on the topic “ <u>Strategies to Engage Parliamentarians in Ending Child, Early and Forced Marriage</u> ” )	Virtual
March	67 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women ( <u>#GenderClimateChallenge</u> )	Virtual
April 3-4	<u>African Regional Parliamentary Workshop on the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its Protocols</u>	Lilongwe, Malawi
April 10-14	PGA participation in the UNGA 6th Committee on the Crimes against Humanity Convention	New York, United States
Apr. 19	Modernizing the International Criminal Court: Hybrid Chambers (co-organized with the Harvard Journal of International Law)	Virtual
Apr. 19	“Empowering Parliamentarians on Climate Action,” side event to the extraordinary Conference of State Parties for the Escazú Agreement (in collaboration with the Senate of Argentina)	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Apr. 20	PGA Mozambique National Group Meeting: Protecting the Livelihoods of Local Fishing Communities in Mozambique	Virtual
May-02	Roundtable Discussion on Building Resilience in Small-Scale Fishing Communities in South Africa	Virtual/South Africa
May 3-5	Field Mission and Participation at the <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference: Human Rights and Accountability – A Path Forward for Nagorno-Karabakh</u> (organized by the Center for Truth and Justice)	Yerevan, Armenia

<b>May. 10</b>	Roundtable Discussions on Building Resilience in Small-Scale Fishing Communities in South Africa	Virtual/South Africa
<b>May 15-19</b>	PGA participation in the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of the Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes and other International Crimes	Ljubljana, Slovenia
<b>May. 25</b>	Workshop on Judicial Elections and Vetting (co-organized with the Coalition for the International Criminal Court)	Virtual
<b>May 28-30</b>	PGA Executive Committee Meeting	New York, United States
<b>Jun. 27</b>	Meeting of the PGA European Parliament Group the 43 <sup>rd</sup> session of the EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly, “Demystifying the International Criminal Court: the Importance of Reinforcing the Universality of the Rome Statute”	Brussels, Belgium
<b>Jul. 5-6</b>	<u>Caribbean Regional Parliamentary Workshop on the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its Protocols</u>	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
<b>Jul. 7</b>	<u>National Parliamentary Session to Promote the Universality and Implementation of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (ACPPNM) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)</u>	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
<b>Jul. 11</b>	<u>“Towards Effective Environmental Governance: Access to Information, Participation and Justice”</u> (in collaboration with ParlAmericas)	Virtual
<b>Jul. 12</b>	<u>Commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Adoption of the Rome Statute</u>	The Hague, Netherlands
<b>Jul. 17</b>	<u>Commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Adoption of the Rome Statute</u>	United Nations, New York, United States
<b>Jul. 20</b>	National Parliamentary Session to Promote Universality and Implementation of ICSANT	Victoria, Seychelles

<b>Jul. 20</b>	Lecture “On the Crime of Aggression, International Tribunal and Amending the Rome Statute” (Ukrainian International Criminal Justice Week)	Virtual
<b>Jul. 20-22</b>	PGA Parliamentary Delegation to the 6 <sup>th</sup> Conference of LGBTQI+ Political Leaders of the Americas and the Caribbean	Mexico City, Mexico
<b>Jul. 31</b>	<u>National Parliamentary Session to Promote Universality and Implementation of CPPNM, A/CPPNM and ICSANT</u>	Banjul, The Gambia
<b>Sep. 13-17</b>	PGA Delegation to EuroPride	Valletta, Malta
<b>Sep. 15</b>	PGA Commemorates World Day for Democracy	Virtual
<b>Sep. 26</b>	<u>ECLAC/CEPAL 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Forum of Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean</u>	Panama City, Panama
<b>Oct. 10</b>	<u>Commemoration of the 21<sup>st</sup> World Day Against the Death Penalty</u>	Virtual
<b>Oct. 12-13</b>	PGA participation in the Symposium on “Strategic Vision for the Next Decade: How to Ensure Consistent and Sustainable Support for the International Criminal Court” commemorating the 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Adoption of the Rome Statute” (co-organized by the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights and the ICC)	Siracusa, Italy
<b>Oct. 27</b>	<u>National Parliamentary Session to Promote Universality and Implementation of CPPNM, A/CPPNM and ICSANT</u>	Paramaribo, Suriname
<b>Nov. 14-15</b>	PGA participation at the ICC High-Level Regional Seminar on the ICC and the Asia-Pacific Region	Seoul, Republic of Korea
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<u>National Parliamentary Session to Promote Universality and Implementation of ICSANT</u>	Yaounde, Cameroon
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the Oceans (CAP-Oceans)</u>	Virtual

<b>Nov. 15-16</b>	<u>44<sup>th</sup> Annual Parliamentary Forum</u>	Virtual/ Parliament of Seychelles
<b>Nov. 28-29</b>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> African Parliamentary Forum on Gender and Sexual Minorities</u>	Johannesburg, South Africa
<b>Dec. 4-14</b>	Participation in the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court	New York, United States
<b>Dec. 04</b>	PGA Executive Committee Meeting	Virtual
<b>Dec. 05</b>	PGA International Council Meeting	Virtual
<b>Dec. 8</b>	<u>“Why Universality Matters: The Importance of Ratifying the Rome Statute, its Amendments and the Agreement of Privileges and Immunities,”</u> side-event organized in the margins of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Assembly of States Parties (co-hosted by Belgium, Liechtenstein, The Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland as well as the Coalition for the International Criminal Court and Global Rights Compliance)	New York, United States
<b>Dec. 12</b>	War-driven Environmental Damage in Ukraine: Perspectives on the Application of the Rome Statute and the Work of the International Criminal Court (side event to the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Assembly of States Parties)	New York, United States

Lower left: 22<sup>nd</sup> ASP Side Event: *Why Universality Matters: The Importance of Ratifying the Rome Statute, its Amendments, and the Agreement of Privileges and Immunities*, UN Headquarters; 8 Dec. 2023

Below: Hon. Patrick C. Kensenhuis and Sen. Emilio Icaza holding the *Escazú Agreement at Parliamentary Caucus: Protecting Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters*, Panama City; 26-28 Sep. 2023



## About Us

### 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.



PGA Board Meeting, New York; May 2023

### 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 directly contributes to the creation of political will among MPs to take concrete action. PGA undertakes actions and activities, such as convening national and regional parliamentary workshops and providing follow-up technical assistance to MPs, resulting in the targeted MPs having capacity, knowledge and awareness of a Campaign issue, which in turn leads to targeted MPs having the political will to take action. Concrete actions may include posing a question to the Executive, introducing a bill, meeting and partnering with local civil society, calling for a reform in a public policy or practice, etc.

PGA contributes to creating an enabling environment for positive changes, especially through activities that facilitate connections between civil society and parliamentarians, as well as building bridges between domestic and international policymakers and stakeholders. The goal of PGA's actions is to contribute to parliament passing new/amended legislation (or repealing discriminatory or unjust laws), governments adopting new or modified policies and practices and States ratifying and implementing international treaties and/or aligning to other international standards.

The impact of PGA's work relies on the commitment of parliamentarians to advocate for the prevention of, and accountability for, human rights violations and other breaches of the law, in turn contributing to the reinforcement of the rule of law at both the international level and within national systems.

Parliamentarians engaged by PGA are empowered to better perform their constitutional prerogatives as lawmakers, policymakers and defenders of democratic institutions.



## Membership

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 parliament should belong to an internationally recognized State or Group of States. PGA's Executive Committee adopts the policy of the United Nations for recognizing States as member States.
- The members must be from a freely elected parliament.
- The election should be open to more than one political party and/or to independent candidates.
- The parliament must demonstrate an actual ability to engage in free debate.



PGA National Parliamentary Session on Encouraging Female and Male Parliamentarians to Promote Nuclear and Radiological Security, Seychelles; 20 Jul. 2023

### 2023 MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

#### AFRICA (445 MEMBERS, 39 COUNTRIES)

Angola	2
Benin	2
Botswana	1
Burkina Faso	15
Cameroon	6
Cape Verde	26
Central African Republic	29
Chad	5
Comoros	1
Cote D'Ivoire	10
Djibouti	1
DR Congo	37
Eswatini	1
Ethiopia	1
Gabon	2
Gambia	10
Ghana	32
Guinea Bissau	12
Kenya	46
Liberia	3
Madagascar	1
Malawi	7
Mauritania	1
Mozambique	16
Namibia	6
Niger	3

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 1142**  
**FEMALE: 414 (36.25%)**  
**MALE: 728 (63.75%)**

Nigeria	20
São Tomé and Príncipe	8
Senegal	13
Seychelles	1
Sierra Leone	8
Somalia	10
South Africa	20
South Sudan	3
Tanzania	15
Togo	1
Uganda	44
Zambia	2
Zimbabwe	24

#### MIDDLE EAST & THE MEDITERRANEAN (44 MEMBERS, 9 COUNTRIES)

Algeria	1
Iraq	11
Jordan	5
Lebanon	1
Morocco	11
Oman	1
Tunisia	6
Turkey	1
Yemen	7

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

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

**ASIA (130 MEMBERS, 12 COUNTRIES)**

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

**THE PACIFIC (50 MEMBERS, 12 COUNTRIES)**

Australia	11
Cook Islands	1
Fiji	4
Maldives	3
Micronesia	2
New Zealand	8
Papua New Guinea	1
Samoa	8
Solomon Islands	2
Tonga	4
Tuvalu	5
Vanuatu	1

**EUROPE (159 MEMBERS, 26 COUNTRIES)**

Albania	14
Austria	2
Belgium	4
Denmark	11
Estonia	1
Finland	5
Georgia	1
Germany	2
Ireland	5
Italy	10
Lithuania	1
Montenegro	1
Netherlands	13
North Macedonia	2
Norway	7
Poland	2
Portugal	4
Romania	1
Serbia	1
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	1
Sweden	21
Switzerland	6
Ukraine	22
United Kingdom	20

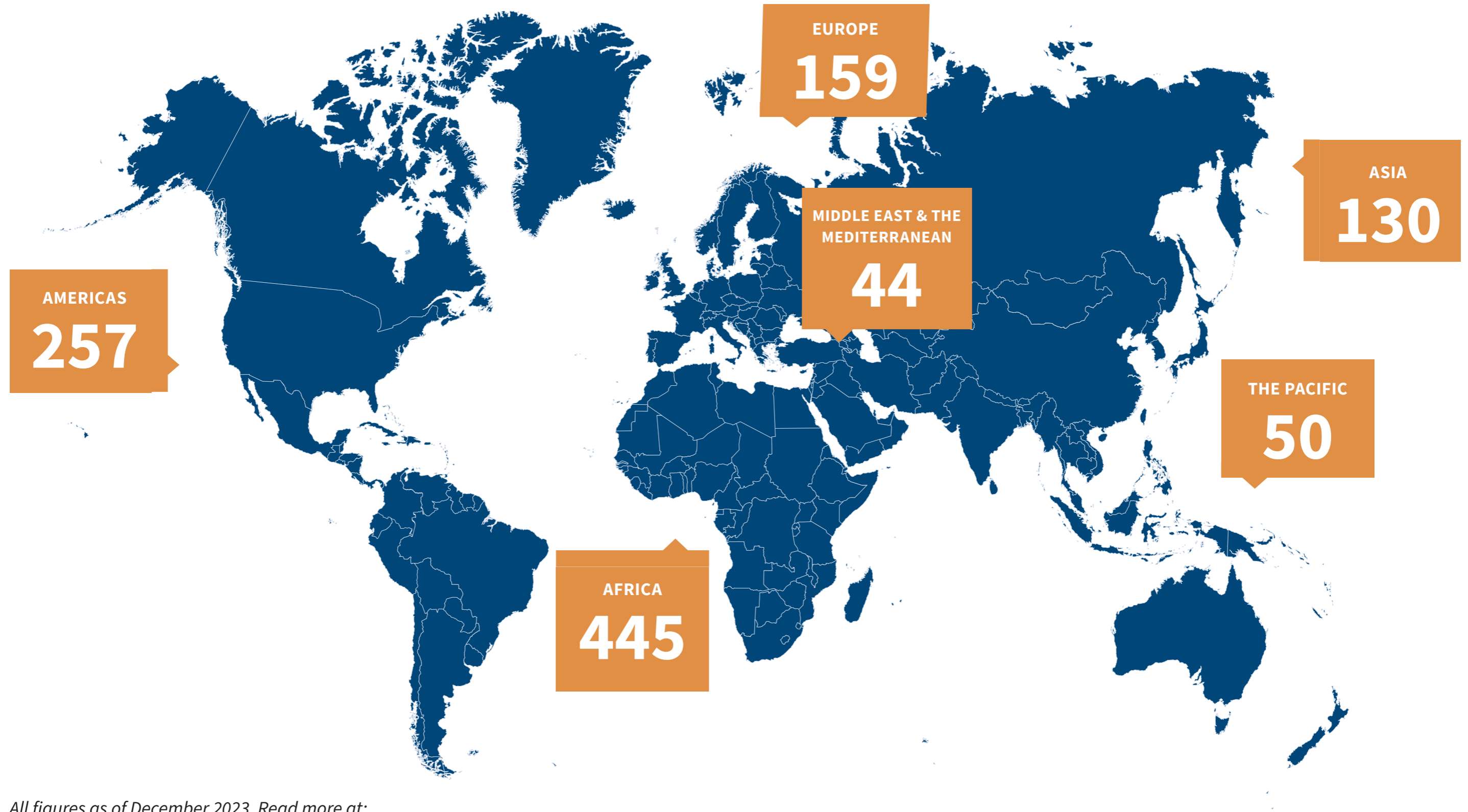
**REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS (25 MEMBERS, 4 PARLIAMENTS)**

ECOWAS Parliament	6
European Parliament	18
Parlacen	
Parlatino	1

**OBSERVER COUNTRIES (4 MEMBERS, 3 OBSERVER COUNTRIES)**

Aruba	1
Palestine	1
Sudan	2

## 2023 Membership Overview



All figures as of December 2023. Read more at:  
[www.pgaction.org/membership/our-members.html](http://www.pgaction.org/membership/our-members.html)

## 2023 Executive Committee



**PRESIDENT**

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



**CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL**

**Mr. Ali Ehsassi, MP (Canada)**



**TREASURER**

**Ms. Petra Bayr, MP (Austria)**



**DIP. MARGARITA STOLBIZER**  
(ARGENTINA)



**HON. VALERIE WOODS**  
SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT (BELIZE)



**DIP. DR. ESTHER CUESTA**  
(ECUADOR)



**MR. FABIO MASSIMO CASTALDO**  
MEP-ITALY (EUR. PARLIAMENT)



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



**HON. MILLIE ODHIAMBO MP**  
(KENYA)



**HON. ROZAINA ADAM MP**  
(THE MALDIVES)



**SEN. EMILIO ÁLVAREZ ICAZA**  
LONGORIA (MEXICO)



**DEP. ANTONIO NIQUICE**  
(MOZAMBIQUE)



**SEN. BORIS DITTRICH**  
(THE NETHERLANDS)



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



**MS. ANN-SOFIE ALM MP**  
(SWEDEN)

## International Council

**Sen. Lucilla Crexell (Argentina)**

**Ms. Maria Vamvakinou, MP (Australia)**

**Dep. José Manuel Sanches Tavares (Cape Verde)**

**Dep. Emilie Béatrice Epaye (Central African Republic)**

**Dip. Victor Suárez (Dominican Republic)**

**Dr. Hannah Neumann, MEP (Germany)**

**Hon. Madi Ceesay, MP (The Gambia)**

**Dip. Jorge Cálix (Honduras)**

**Hon. Supriya Sadanand Sule, MP (India)**

**Ms. Lia Quartapelle, MP (Italy)**

**Hon. Kula Segaran, MP (Malaysia)**

**Hon. Juliet Kavetuna, MP (Namibia)**

**Mr. Adrian Rurawhe, MP (New Zealand)**

**Hon. Bamidele Salam, MP (Nigeria)**

**Hon. Mohsin Dawar, MP (Pakistan)**

**Dep. Raul Cardoso (São Tomé and Príncipe)**

**Hon. Patrick Kensenhuis, MP (Suriname)**

**Hon. Jasson Rweikiza, MP (Tanzania)**

**Sen. Wade Mark (Trinidad and Tobago)**

**Hon. Fox Odoi Oywelowo, MP (Uganda)**

**Dr. Galyna Mykhailiuk, MP (Ukraine)**

**Lord Jeremy Purvis of Tweed (United Kingdom)**

## PGA Secretariat

PGA's Secretariat is the operational body of the organization. It is responsible for the management and execution of PGA Campaigns and provides technical and legal assistance to all PGA members and peer-parliamentarians upon request. Its headquarters are in New York, United States, with an office in the Hague, the Netherlands. PGA chose these locations because they host the United Nations and international justice institutions.

### Mónica Adame

Secretary-General

[Monica.Adame@pgaction.org](mailto:Monica.Adame@pgaction.org)

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PGA is grateful to David Donat Cattin, Secretary-General (2012-2022); Thiago Carvalho, Operations Manager; Leyla Nikjou, Senior Advisor to the Oceans Campaign; and Aron le Fèvre, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Consultant, for their dedicated service to the organization in 2023.

## United Nations Advisory Committee

PGA's United Nations 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**

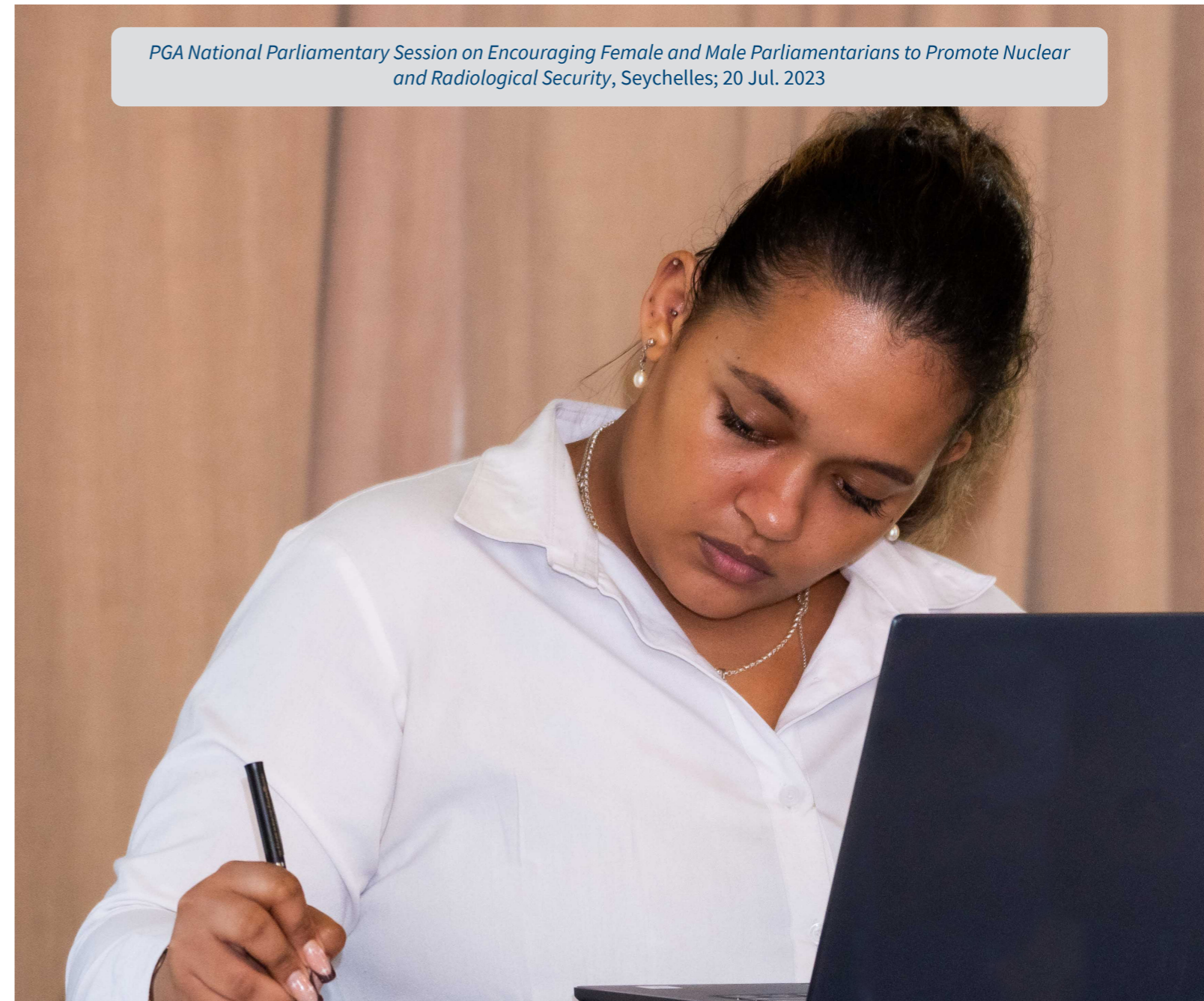
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Ukraine

### UN SECRETARIAT AND AGENCIES

**Mr. Adama Dieng**

Former Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

*PGA National Parliamentary Session on Encouraging Female and Male Parliamentarians to Promote Nuclear and Radiological Security, Seychelles; 20 Jul. 2023*



## Democratic Renewal and Human Rights

In a world where democratic values are facing unprecedented challenges, the role of parliamentarians in defending and upholding these principles has never been more critical. The erosion of democratic norms, the rise of authoritarianism, and threats to the rule of law demand our unwavering commitment to preserving the foundations of democratic governance.

The [Campaign for Democratic Renewal and Human Rights](#) (Democratic Renewal Campaign) seeks to contribute directly to PGA's vision of a "rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe, sustainable and democratic world" as well as SDG 16: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at All Levels, by empowering its members to promote and safeguard multi-party democracy worldwide.

As part of a programmatic realignment, the Democratic Renewal Campaign is now housed within the [Democracy, Gender and Inclusion Program](#) to enhance synergies with our gender and inclusion work.

*The Democratic Renewal Campaign received core support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as well as project support from Global Affairs Canada and Denmark Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

2023 has been both a challenging and inspiring year; PGA member-parliamentarians offered each other solidarity, using their platforms to counter attacks on democratic institutions and in support of human rights defenders, journalists and parliamentarians who have been the target of physical and psychological abuse.

PGA launched the [Parliamentary Toolbox for Democracy Defense](#) at the [44<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum](#) hosted by the National Assembly of Seychelles on November 16, 2023. The Toolbox, complementing the first and second pillars of the Campaign – the [Parliamentary Rapid Response Team](#) (PARRT) and the [Global Parliamentary Code of Democratic Conduct](#) respectively – provides Members of Parliament with tools and strategies to detect and combat early warning signs of democratic backsliding.

Since its inception in 2020, the [PARRT](#) has become a resource for MPs, partners and organizations seeking prompt action and support in cases where legislators themselves are at-risk. As a small cohort of nine legislators representing all regions worldwide, in 2023 PARRT members continued strengthening ties with their peers, working collaboratively to issue statements, calls for action and raising awareness on serious cases of human rights violations and the erosion of democracy.

PARRT members have publicly (either within their Parliaments or through their social media platforms) taken action for the immediate and unconditional release of [Nasrin Sotoudeh](#) – a

### PGA 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum: Day 2

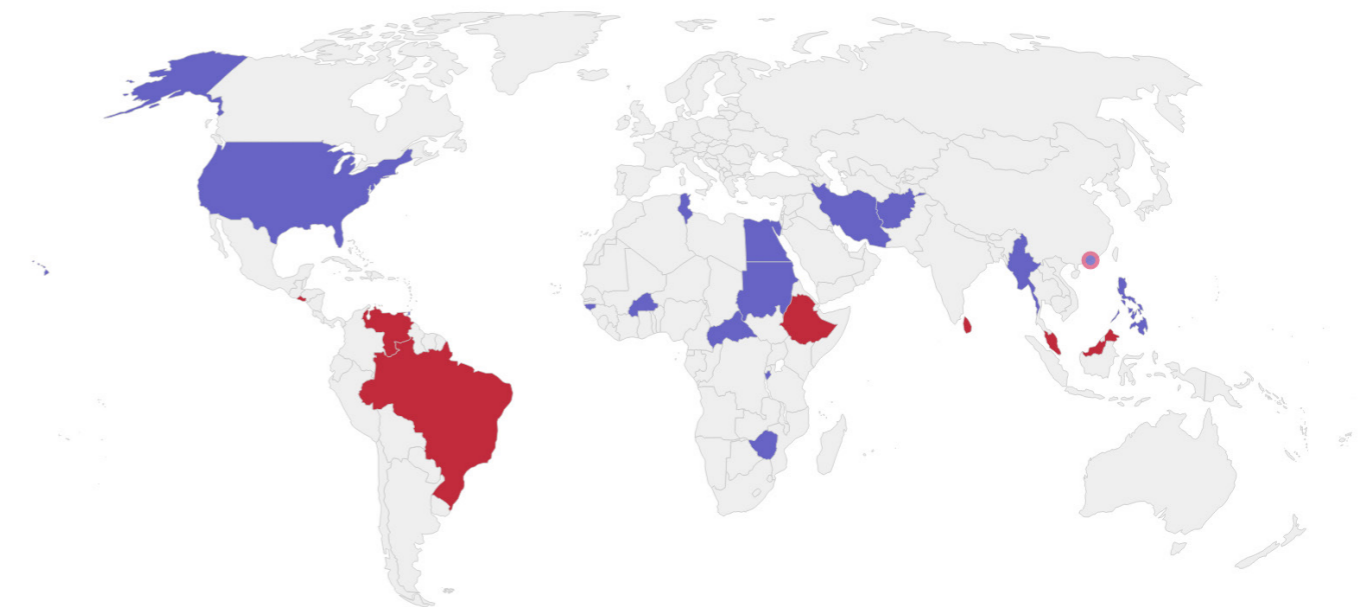
#### SECURING DEMOCRACY IN A DIGITAL AGE: LAUNCH OF THE PARLIAMENTARY TOOLBOX OF DEMOCRACY DEFENSE

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

[▶ PLAY VIDEO](#)



prominent human rights defender imprisoned by the Iranian regime. PGA's Executive Committee also took a bold stance by supporting the global [I Oppose the Mandatory Hijab](#) initiative launched by Ms. Sotoudeh. This is a resounding call for women's right to decide what to wear – transcending borders, cultures and religions – and to address a significant symbol that has been used to oppress and punish Iranian women for decades.



As of December 2023, the [Global Parliamentary Code of Conduct](#) has been signed by 116 parliamentarians from 51 countries around the world. The Code, shared widely with regional parliamentary organizations, committees and partners, demonstrates the commitment of an increasing number of legislators who abide by democratic practices and pledge to refrain from using hate speech, misinformation and disrespectful dialogue in their public interactions.

Furthermore, the Democratic Renewal Campaign strengthened synergies with long-standing partners and entered into new agreements with like-minded organizations:

- Contributed to Apolitical Foundation's initiative to "[Map the State of Politicians' Mental Wellbeing](#)" to understand and offer assistance to parliamentarians worldwide who have suffered attacks to their physical and psychological integrity in the execution of their role, especially when speaking out about human rights and fundamental freedoms in hostile contexts. PGA provided assistance in researching how mental well-being might impact the functioning of the profession, what support or initiatives exist to take care of politicians' well-being and where there may be opportunities to help improve it.
- Strengthened synergies between the work of the PARRT and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)'s Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians through increased cooperation in joint actions. For example, facilitating the participation of Samaau Ahmed Najeeb, member of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM), as an observer at the trial of Sen. Muhammad Azam Khan Swati in Pakistan. Ms. Najeeb traveled to Islamabad in July 2023 to meet with relevant stakeholders and review Court documents; however, the hearing was eventually canceled. Additionally, PARRT member Anita Vandenberg, MP (Canada) participated in an [IPU-hosted event to support MPs under threat](#). The online panel brought together diverse parliamentary institutions and individuals from all regions of the world to share examples of best practices in parliamentary solidarity.



**PARRT member Anita Vandenberg, MP (Canada)**

**PARLIAMENTARY SOLIDARITY: SUPPORTING MPS UNDER THREAT**

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023



- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) to strengthen cooperation on democratic development, parliamentary strengthening, the human rights of legislators and their role in the protection of marginalized and vulnerable communities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) persons.

PGA has endorsed and joined a coalition, spearheaded by Democracy Without Borders, and made up of more than 80 civil society organizations, networks, think tanks and institutions, as well as numerous individuals from across the world, to support the [establishment of a United Nations Special Rapporteur on Democracy](#) (UNRoD). This new mandate's purpose would be to strengthen democracy and democratization worldwide, highlighting best practices and lessons learned and filling a significant gap in the current human rights system.

## Campaign against Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The [Campaign against Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#) (SOGI Campaign) seeks to implement Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 16.b to promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development by mobilizing 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).

*The SOGI Campaign received core support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as well as project support from the Arcus Foundation, Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Denmark Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Sigrid Rausing Trust.*

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

While progress under the SOGI Campaign's sensitization objective has continued, homophobic and transphobic attitudes – stemming from British colonial-era discriminatory laws, a lack of effective legal protections against discrimination based on SOGI that fuels prejudice and fear and the rise of anti-rights and anti-gender movements – expose many LGBTQI+ persons around the world to serious violations of their human rights.

PGA supported its members on legislative and strategic litigation processes throughout 2023 and convened in-person activities to facilitate cooperation between parliamentarians and LGBTQI+ civil society:

- On March 21, 2023, the Parliament of Uganda [adopted the Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2023](#), which [PGA condemned publicly](#) in a statement. As a response, PGA launched a [Global Parliamentary Petition](#) calling on President Museveni to uphold Uganda's human rights obligations. The petition got 229 signatories from parliamentarians in 63 countries, including 19 parliamentarians from Africa.

**Hon. Tina Pupeke Browne, MP (Cook Islands)**

**THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS HAS TAKEN AN HISTORIC STEP AS A LEADER IN THE PACIFIC REGION IN MODERNIZING ITS CRIMINAL CODE BY PASSING A LAW DECRIMINALIZING HOMOSEXUALITY.**

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023





- From February 25-March 2, 2023 PGA led a [delegation of 4 MPs from Pacific Island countries](#) (Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands) to Sydney WorldPride to participate in meetings with Pacific LGBTQI+ activists, governments, human rights experts, US and Australian parliamentarians, religious leaders and other stakeholders. The meetings provided opportunities to discuss political, economic, human rights, religious, cultural, health and legal perspectives on LGBTQI+ inclusion.
- On April 14, 2023 the Parliament of Cook Islands approved the Crimes (Sexual Offences) Amendment Bill 2023, [decriminalizing consensual same-sex sexual relations](#). PGA member-parliamentarian Hon. Tina Browne, MP (Cook Islands), who participated in the delegation to Sydney, [issued a statement](#) on the importance of decriminalization while highlighting relevant religious and cultural elements.



**Hon. Magele Sekati Fiaui, MP (Samoa)**

**REMARKS AT SYDNEY WORLDPRIDE 2023**

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023



**Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, MP (Fiji)**

**REMARKS AT SYDNEY WORLDPRIDE 2023**

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023



- Facilitated a parliamentary delegation from Honduras to attend the [6<sup>th</sup> Conference of LGBTQI+ Political Leaders of the Americas and the Caribbean](#) in July. MPs met with their peers from the region as well as LGBTQI+ community leaders to discuss the situation of LGBTQI+ persons in their country and the region, and brainstormed strategies to increase the visibility and political participation of LGBTQI+ persons. These peer-to-peer discussions included a comparative analysis of legislative and policy frameworks of countries in the region.
- Led a [parliamentary delegation to EuroPride](#) of four African MPs from Botswana, Kenya, Seychelles and Uganda, respectively. The event, held in Valletta, Malta, included participation in the Human Rights Conference, high-level meetings with the European Union Commissioner on Equality, the Maltese Parliamentary Secretary for Equality and peers from the European

Union Parliament on advancing the rights of the LGBTQI+ community in Africa. Discussions highlighted the diversity of progress/regress on LGBTQI+ in Commonwealth countries, proposed strategies to address external forces that negatively influence LGBTQI+ inclusion and ways to increase engagement and support among parliamentarians in the region.

**Hon. Unity Dow (Botswana) - Europride 2023**

**A PGA PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM KENYA, UGANDA, THE SEYCHELLES AND BOTSWANA PARTICIPATED IN EUROPRIDE VALLETTA 2023, IN MALTA**

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023



- Organized the [3<sup>rd</sup> African Parliamentary Forum on Gender and Sexual Minorities](#), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program's Inclusive Governance Initiative (UNDP-IGI). Twenty-four parliamentarians from eleven Sub-Saharan African countries – Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe – participated in the Forum held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Civil society representatives from Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Spain, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe also participated in the activity.

PGA has also increased its strategic advocacy and communications.

- Disseminated the updated Handbook, "[Advancing the Human Rights and Inclusion of LGBTQI+ People](#)," providing parliamentarians around the world with practical tools to advance the human rights and inclusion of LGBTQI+ persons. During the [African Parliamentary Convening](#), PGA collected valuable input from MPs and civil society to produce an Africa region-specific Handbook in 2024 that will incorporate strategies to communicate about equality and inclusion highlighting messages of religion, culture and community.
- Hon. Magele Sekati Fiaui, MP (Samoa), presented a report in parliament on his [participation in Sydney WordPride](#) – a first in the parliament's history.
- Commemorated the [International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia](#) on May 17, 2023 and the [2<sup>nd</sup> International Day for Countering Hate Speech](#) on June 19, 2023.

## Human Rights and Environment Program

In 2023, the Executive Committee approved the [Human Rights and Environment Program](#), restructuring the ongoing efforts of the [Campaign to Mobilize Parliamentarians for a Rights-based Approach to Climate Action](#) (Climate Action Campaign) to highlight the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all people and the [Campaign for Protection of the Oceans and Implementation of SDG 14](#) (Oceans Campaign). As a result, PGA has taken a more holistic approach at the issues and established itself as a key stakeholder for a rights-based approach to protecting the climate and oceans.

### Campaign for a Human Rights-based Approach to Climate Action

PGA's [Campaign to Mobilize Parliamentarians on Climate Action from a Human Rights-Based Approach](#) (Climate Action Campaign) sensitizes parliamentarians about their role in guaranteeing equality and non-discrimination for all individuals, particularly vulnerable communities that bear the harshest effects of climate change as a consequence of structural inequalities and discriminatory provisions.

The Climate Action Campaign mobilizes parliamentarians in the Caribbean region 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.

*The Climate Action Campaign received core support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as well as project support from Open Society Foundations.*

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA generated a notable increase in engagement with parliamentarians on Climate Action, who have embraced PGA's peer-to-peer methodology and prioritized the Escazú Agreement in their own portfolios.

[Belize ratified the Escazú Agreement](#) on March 7, 2023, becoming the 14<sup>th</sup> State Party. This followed extensive efforts by PGA since the Campaign's inception in 2021.

PGA also deepened its collaboration with various stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- PGA's National Group in Suriname convened a meeting to identify the obstacles to ratification. Its Chair, Hon. Patrick Kensenhuis, MP, participated in PGA's [Insights by Lawmakers on Climate Action and Oceans series](#) (#InsightsByLawmakers), which highlights ongoing efforts, national experiences, lessons learned and good practices implemented by parliamentarians to advance the goals of these Campaigns. In his [remarks](#), Hon. Kensenhuis highlighted the link between human rights and the environment, calling on fellow parliamentarians to defend the human rights of their constituents.

#### Hon. Patrick Kensenhuis, MP (Suriname)

##### #INSIGHTSBYLAWMAKERS ON CLIMATE ACTION AND OCEANS: EPISODE 19 ON EPISODE 19, CHAIR OF PGA NATIONAL GROUP HIGHLIGHTS THE LINK BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023



- Senator Sophia Frazer-Binns, Jamaican Shadow Minister of Land, Environment and Climate, [published an op-ed](#) in both a local paper and PGA's website.
- Held an official side event to Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Escazú Agreement: "[Empowering Parliamentarians as Champions for the Escazú Agreement.](#)"
- Partnered with ParlAmericas on a [joint virtual event](#) bringing together parliamentarians and civil society representatives from the Americas to identify challenges and opportunities linked to effective and inclusive environmental governance and highlighting in particular the Agreement's usefulness to recognize, protect and promote rights of all human rights defenders in environmental matters.



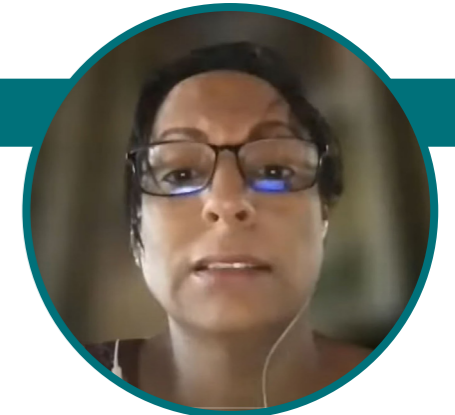
#### COP2 Side Event

##### COP2 SIDE EVENT: EMPOWERING PARLIAMENTARIANS AS CHAMPIONS FOR THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023



- PGA also partnered with CANARI in Trinidad and Tobago as a non-funded Associate for CANARI's EU-funded project.
- [Convened a parliamentary caucus](#) upon invitation by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) within the framework of the 2nd Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Panama City, Panama. During the forum, PGA member-parliamentarians engaged directly with civil society representatives and other expert stakeholders through arranged bilateral meetings and breakout sessions. As an outcome of the hybrid Parliamentary Caucus parliamentarians produced "[Key Recommendations on the Role of Parliamentarians in the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters.](#)"
- [Convened meetings of parliamentarians](#) in Costa Rica (upon request of UN ECLAC) and Guyana to raise awareness about the Escazú Agreement.



## Campaign for the Protection of the Oceans and Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

The [Campaign for the Protection of the Oceans and Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14](#) (Oceans Campaign) has made significant achievements towards ending impunity for crimes committed on and against the world's oceans and their related human rights violations, including through ratification and implementation of international treaties and effective national legal structures on [Ending Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported \(IUU\) Fishing](#); [Sustainable Small-scale Fishing \(SSF\)](#); [Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\)](#); [Deep Seabed Mining \(DSM\)](#) and [Protecting the High Seas](#), officially referred to as Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

*The Oceans Campaign received core support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as well as project support from the Blue Nature Alliance, Denmark Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fauna and Flora International and the High Seas Alliance.*

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

#### SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

In 2023, PGA completed a 3-year project on "[Building Resilience in Small-Scale Fishing Communities in South Africa and Mozambique](#)," in partnership with the [Environmental Law Institute \(ELI\)](#). As a result of PGA's efforts, the Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of the National Assembly of South Africa convened the [3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sessions of Roundtable Discussions](#) on the topic, bringing together local fishers and experts to explore the particular challenges faced by women in the sector.

In Mozambique, PGA's National Group [convened a parliamentary meeting](#) with the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries as well as experts, and civil society representatives to identify opportunities to support the sustainable development of the small-scale fisheries sector in Mozambique.

Dep. Antonio Niquice (Mozambique), PGA Executive Committee member, also convened a meeting with local fishers and experts to hear directly about the challenges faced. Dep. Niquice described the importance of prioritizing sustainability of small-scale fisheries in the [inaugural episode](#) of PGA's [Insights by Lawmakers on Climate Action and Oceans](#) series. He delivered his remarks in both [English](#) and [Portuguese](#).

As a result, in 2023, Mozambique established a new competency of the Ministry for the development and effective management of marine conservation areas, to create a new Office of Social and Environmental Safeguards, which specifically supports small-scale fisheries and now aims to ensure these policies are gender sensitive.

#### Dep. Antonio Niquice (Mozambique)

#INSIGHTSBYLAWMAKERS ON CLIMATE ACTION AND OCEANS: EPISODE 1: DEP. ANTONIO NIQUICE (MOZAMBIQUE) ON SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023



[WATCH IN ENGLISH](#)



[VER EM PORTUGUÊS](#)



#### HIGH SEAS TREATY

We also launched the [Campaign on the Universality and Implementation of the UN High Seas Treaty](#) (High Seas Treaty Campaign), in partnership with the [High Seas Alliance \(HSA\)](#), to protect the high seas, their resources and marine ecosystems.

#### Factsheet for Parliamentarians

UNITED NATIONS HIGH SEAS TREATY: AN HISTORIC AGREEMENT TO PROTECT THE OCEAN



[DOWNLOAD](#)



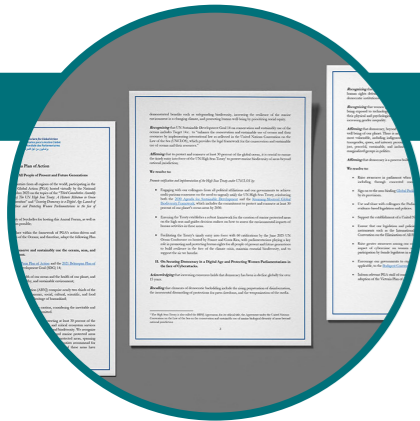
Under this new area of work, PGA supports its members with technical assistance upon request, including with background materials, the publication of the Factsheet for Parliamentarians on the High Seas (in [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#)) and the [3<sup>rd</sup> Consultative Assembly for Parliamentarians on the Oceans \(CAP-Oceans\)](#) – which was held during the [44<sup>th</sup> PGA Annual Parliamentary Forum](#) and resulted in the adoption of the [Victoria Plan of Action](#) (also available in [French](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#)). As short-term results of the 3rd CAP-Oceans, Vanuatu signed the Treaty and Seychelles began its process for ratification.

Ahead of PGA's [3<sup>rd</sup> CAP-Oceans](#), Dip. Ramón Barrios (Honduras), Chair of the Legislation and Constitutional Affairs Committee, reflected on the importance of the historic High Seas Treaty for human rights in an [episode](#) of [Insights by Lawmakers on Climate Action and Oceans](#) series.

#### MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

PGA also worked in partnership with Fauna and Flora International on [Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\)](#) in São Tomé and Príncipe towards the conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainability of fisheries through the effective implementation, management and expansion of the country's first network of MPAs. The [Victoria Plan of Action](#), adopted at the conclusion of the [44<sup>th</sup> Annual](#)

[Parliamentary Forum](#), included a commitment to protecting at least 30 percent of the ocean over the next decade.



### Victoria Plan of Action

#### ADOPTED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023



[DOWNLOAD](#)

### DEEP SEABED MINING

PGA continued its project on [Deep Seabed Mining](#), including membership in the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition. In 2023, PGA:

- Disseminated the [Global Parliamentary Declaration Calling for a Moratorium on Deep Seabed Mining](#) – which has been signed by over 260 parliamentarians worldwide.
- PGA Secretary-General, Mónica Adame, [remarked](#) on the ongoing negotiations and called on parliamentarians to defend the Moratorium on Deep Seabed Mining in a special episode of [Insights by Lawmakers on Climate Action and Oceans](#) on the occasion of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Assembly, held in Kingston, Jamaica.



### Special Feature on Deep Seabed Mining

#### EPISODE 13: SPECIAL FEATURE: PGA SECRETARY-GENERAL, MS. MÓNICA ADAME ON A MORATORIUM ON DEEP SEABED MINING

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023



[PLAY VIDEO](#)

- Provided technical support upon request throughout 2023.
- Facilitated a meeting of Jamaican parliamentarians, who subsequently [issued a call](#) for a moratorium on deep seabed mining.

## Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of the System of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

The [Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of the System of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#) (Rome Statute Campaign) aims to promote a universal culture for the rule of law, human rights and human dignity by contributing to ending impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. We do this 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. These efforts are in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, particularly Target 16.3, which commits governments to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

*The Rome Statute Campaign received core support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as well as project support from Denmark Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Commission, Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.*

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

2023 was a significant year for the Rome Statute Campaign as it [marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on July 17, 2023.

### 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Adoption of the Rome Statute

#### PGA REAFFIRMS ITS UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR THE ROME STATUTE SYSTEM AND ITS OBJECTIVES.



[PLAY VIDEO](#)



Sen. Boris Dittrich (The Netherlands), PGA Executive Committee member, marked the occasion by addressing the Campaign's priorities for the years to come:

“To look at the way that judges are being elected for the ICC so that the selection is merit-based. It's important we have judges who have experience as judges in their own home country and that they can share their knowledge and experience.”

To that end, PGA published the “[Handbook for Parliamentarians on the National Nomination of Judicial Candidates for the International Criminal Court](#)” in June. It is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#). This vital resource provides parliamentarians with specific criteria and recommendations to encourage their governments to improve national nomination procedures for ICC judicial candidates and adopt good practices and requirements to ensure these processes are fair, transparent and merit-based.

PGA has also been at the forefront of the ratification process in several countries:

- On November 14, 2023 Armenia [deposited the instrument of ratification](#) of the Rome Statute (entering into force on February 1, 2024), making Armenia the 124<sup>th</sup> State Party. This follows PGA’s field mission to Yerevan, Armenia in May 2023 to address a [conference on Human Rights and Accountability](#) and meeting with the Ministry of Justice and members of the National Assembly, during which PGA raised awareness about the ICC, clarified specific legal issues and agreed to submit technical assistance on the ratification as well as subsequent Rome Statute implementation upon request.



“Armenia’s ratification of the International Criminal Court demonstrates its profound commitment to international justice and the prevention of the gravest crimes, even amid a tearing moment for Armenians. Despite these tragic challenges faced by our people, Armenia is reaffirming its dedication to upholding human rights, fighting against impunity, and contributing positively to the global pursuit of justice.”

– MS. ARUSYAK JULHAKYAN, MP (ARMENIA)  
Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee  
on State and Legal Affairs, and PGA member

- In Somalia, PGA provided a draft accession instrument and explanatory memorandum upon their request. Both the Speaker of the House and the President made commitments toward moving forward with the ratification and PGA member Hon. Marwa Abdibashir Hagi held a constructive meeting with the President of the ICC on advancing the process. Her fellow parliamentarians are preparing a draft law/motion on the ratification and have requested technical support from PGA.
- PGA continued engaging in Ukraine, [repeatedly urging ratification](#) of the Rome Statute.
- In Ecuador, the Cooperation bill with the ICC presented in parliament by Dip. Dr. Esther Cuesta (Ecuador), PGA Executive Committee member, was approved in the first reading by the International Relations Committee in April 2023.



“¿Porque es importante la CPI? Porque nos permite tener reglas claras en la comunidad internacional para que haya verdaderamente el imperio de la ley y también para evitar impunidad de los crímenes más atroces contra la humanidad.”

– DIP. DR. ESTHER CUESTA (ECUADOR), PGA Executive  
Committee member

- In Mexico, following the proposal by Sen. Emilio Álvarez Icaza, PGA Executive Committee member, and other parliamentarians, urging the Executive to ratify the amendments to the Rome Statute, the country ratified the Kampala Amendments of 2010 (except the Crime of Aggression) and the amendments of 2017 (except the crime of starvation in non-international armed conflicts) in early January 2023.
- In Uruguay, PGA’s efforts culminated in the [ratification](#) of all amendments to the Rome Statute in March 2023.



“I certainly hope that countries will continue to enact the Rome Statute into their domestic legislation and that they recognize fully how important it is that we all pull together to hold some of the individuals who are responsible for some of the worst atrocities to accounts.”

– MR. ALI EHSASSI, MP (CANADA),  
Chair of PGA’s International Council

- PGA has also been active in the Ljubljana-the Hague Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance negotiation process, which was [adopted](#) on May 26, 2023. The Ljubljana-the Hague Convention establishes a modern operational framework for effective interstate cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes and other International Crimes. The signing ceremony, open to all States and NGOs, will be held in the Hague in February 2024.
- Organized a parliamentary delegation to attend the [22<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of States Parties](#) (ASP), held in December 2023 in New York, that included Dip. Dr. Esther Cuesta (Ecuador), Dip. Marwa Abdibashir Hagi (Somalia) and Ms. Arusyak Julhakyán (Armenia). The parliamentarians had the opportunity to share their views and perspectives during a side event, “[Why Universality Matters: The Importance of Ratifying the Rome Statute, its Amendments and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities](#),” on December 8 jointly organized with Global Rights Compliance (GRC) and



the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), and generously sponsored by Belgium, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea and Switzerland. The event underscored the crucial need for universal ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute as a pivotal step in holding perpetrators of atrocities accountable.



l-r: H.E. Piotr Hofmański, President of the International Criminal Court & Hon. Marwa Abdibashir Hagi, Member of the Federal Parliament of Somalia, PGA member. 22<sup>nd</sup> ASP Side Event: *Why Universality Matters: The Importance of Ratifying the Rome Statute, its Amendments, and the Agreement of Privileges and Immunities*; 8 Dec. 2023

## Campaign for the Abolition of the Death Penalty

The [Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty](#) (Death Penalty Campaign) aims to abolish the death penalty, promote justice systems grounded in the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all, in line with SDG 16, particularly target 16.3 to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels 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 Campaign received core support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as well as project support from Denmark Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PGA made major progress in limiting the scope of the use of capital punishment in 2023.

- On August 11, the Parliament of Ghana [adopted a Bill](#) abolishing the death penalty for ordinary crimes, which was assented by the President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. To commemorate this historic achievement, PGA member Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, MP (Ghana), stated:



“This momentous achievement reflects the voice of our citizens, whose stance against the death penalty has been heard loud and clear. The Parliament of Ghana demonstrated our unwavering commitment to upholding human rights and justice, paving the way for transformative changes towards a more just and humane society for our country and for the African continent.”

– HON. SAMUEL OKUDZETO ABLAKWA, MP (GHANA),  
PGA Member

- The Parliament of Malaysia [passed 2 bills](#) abolishing the mandatory death penalty for 12 offences. The bills entered into force on July 4 and September 11. This was the culmination of PGA’s [efforts on this issue in Malaysia](#) since 2012.
- In Pakistan, the parliament passed the “[Control of Narcotics Substances Act. 2023](#),” which removed capital punishment for drug trafficking convictions. The law was enacted on August 5. PGA’s Death Penalty Campaign has been [active in the country](#) since 2016.



"The death penalty does not align with justice. The torture it inflicts on individuals only perpetuates trauma. It is our collective duty to dismantle this inhuman practice, for the death penalty not only violates international norms, but also fails to deter crime."

– HON. MILLIE ODHIAMBO, MP (KENYA),  
PGA Executive Committee member

- Armenia [ratified](#) Protocol 13 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances, in October 2023.

PGA was re-elected to the Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) during its General Assembly held in Nairobi on June 23-24, 2023. The Steering Committee is charged with implementing the Coalition's strategy.

## 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.

## Campaign for Biological Security and Health

The [Biological Security and Health Campaign](#) (BSH 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 (WMDs) in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, particularly Target 16.a, to strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation; for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries; to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime by contributing to a reduction in the threat posed by WMDs.

*The BSH Campaign received core support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).*

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

South Sudan [became the 185<sup>th</sup> State Party](#) to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) when it deposited its instrument of accession in February 2023 – the [culmination of PGA's efforts](#) since 2018.



**"South Sudan, the youngest country in the world, is now set to join the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) as the 185<sup>th</sup> State Party. As the world came to a standstill with the emergence of COVID-19, it is now clear that the world is continuously facing unforeseen threats from biological pathogens, which can be easily used as weapons by non-state actors to cause grievous harm to humans, animals and plants.**

**Joining the Convention had a lot of unforeseen hurdles and we sincerely thank PGA for the unwavering support and encouragement to the team of South Sudan. God bless PGA for all the hard work that they are doing to keep the world safe and secure."**

– DR. ALMA YAK, MP (SOUTH SUDAN),  
PGA Member

## Campaign to Promote Nuclear and Radiological Security

PGA's [Nuclear and Radiological Security Campaign](#) (Nuclear 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) in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16's emphasis on peace.

*The Nuclear Security Campaign received core support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) as well as project support from Global Affairs Canada.*

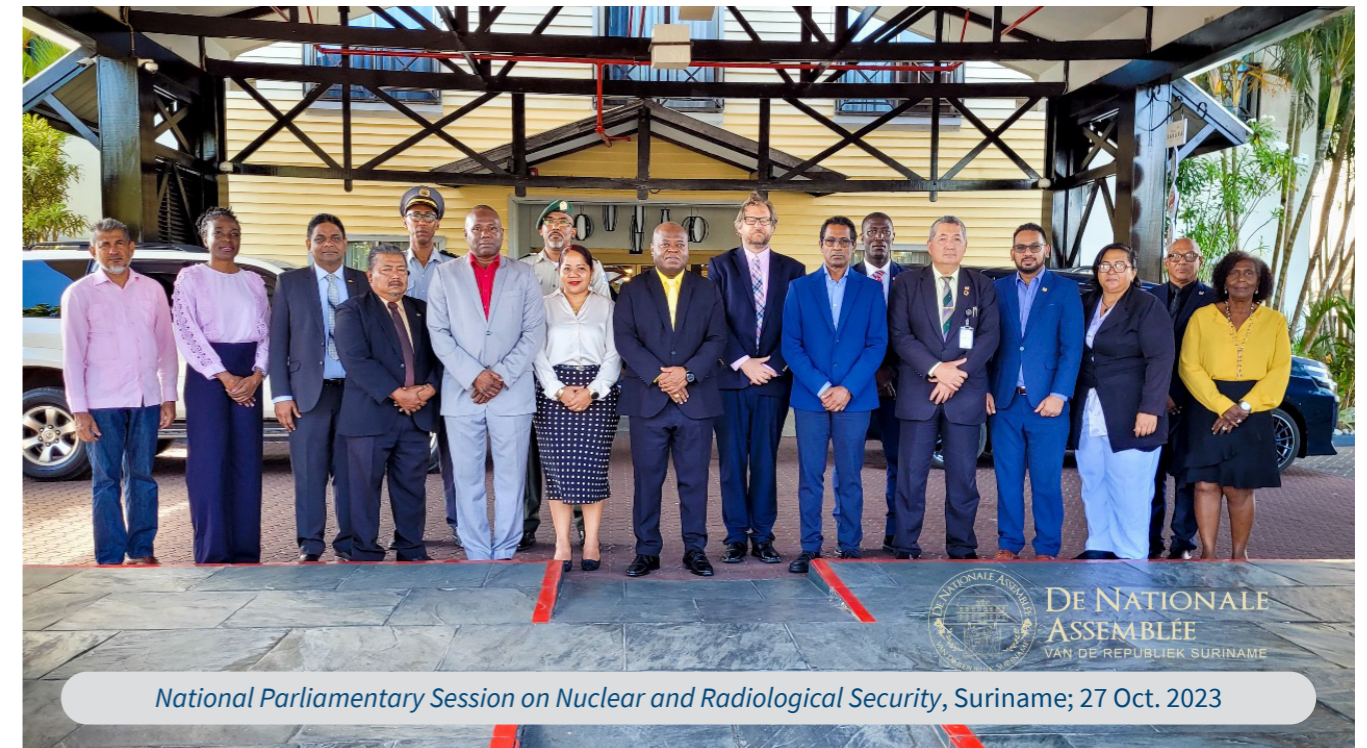
### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In September 2023, [Zimbabwe acceded](#) to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and Acceptance of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (ACPPNM).

PGA previously organized 2 webinars – "[Engaging Parliamentarians in Promoting Nuclear and Radiological Security](#)" in June 2021 and "[African Regional Briefing by PGA on Nuclear and Radiological Security Project](#)" in March 2022 – during which Zimbabwean parliamentarians met with their peers from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Gambia, Nigeria, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Somalia, South Sudan, Togo and Uganda to discuss the issue within their national and regional contexts. PGA subsequently provided participants with National Action Plans and technical assistance upon request.



*National Parliamentary Session on Nuclear and Radiological Security, Yaoundé, Cameroon; 15 Nov. 2023*



*National Parliamentary Session on Nuclear and Radiological Security, Suriname; 27 Oct. 2023*

PGA has made additional progress towards advancing the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and Acceptance of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (ACPPNM) via a series of National Parliamentary Sessions on the issue held throughout 2023 in:



[Cameroon](#)

[The Gambia](#)

[Seychelles](#)

[Suriname](#)

[Trinidad and Tobago](#)

### Video QTV

**PGA'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY PROGRAM ORGANIZED A NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY SESSION ON JULY 31, 2023. THIS EVENT AIMED AT ENGAGING PARLIAMENTARIANS IN PROMOTING NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL SECURITY IN THE GAMBIA.**







The workshops concluded with the adoption of a National Plan of Action, which outlined next steps and participants' commitment to work with their governments to accede to ICSANT/ ACPPNM.



**Seychelles Plan of Action**

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

 [DOWNLOAD](#)

## Global Cybercrime Campaign

The [Global Cybercrime Campaign](#) seeks to mobilize States worldwide to become States Parties and/or fully implement the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its Additional Protocols.

*\*The Cybercrime Campaign received core support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and as well as project support from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

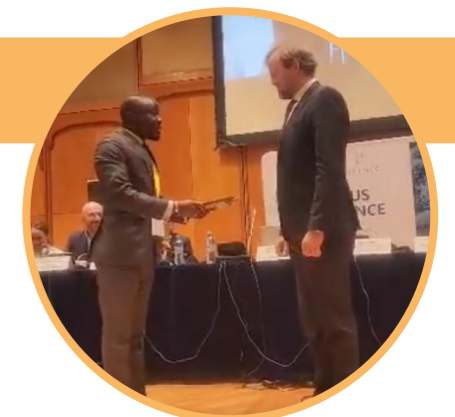
In 2023, PGA advanced the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime in the following countries:



### Cameroon Deposits Instrument of Accession to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime

**CHAIR OF PGA NATIONAL GROUP IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CAMEROON, HON. AGHO OLIVER BAMENJU, MP, CAMEROON, WAS PART OF THE OFFICIAL CAMEROONIAN DELEGATION**

 [PLAY VIDEO](#)



PGA organized the [African Regional Workshop on the Universalization of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its Additional Protocols](#), held in person in April 2023. Parliamentarians and officials from Cameroon, Comoros, Eswatini, the Gambia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Malawi, Seychelles, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe participated.



**Ann-Sofie Alm, MP (Sweden)**

**AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE BUDAPEST CONVENTION ON CYBERCRIME AND ITS ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS**

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Following the workshop, Hon. Agho Oliver Bamenju, MP (Cameroon), Chair of PGA's National Group, put forth a [parliamentary question](#) to the Minister of Post and Telecommunications on June 21 regarding the Digital Rights Bill. In December 2023, Cameroon deposited its Instrument of Accession to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime – the 69<sup>th</sup> country to sign the Budapest Convention. Hon. Bamenju participated in the official delegation and stated:



**“I was very pleased to be part of the official Delegation of the Republic of Cameroon that deposited earlier today its Instrument of Accession to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime. As a PGA member, and since our Regional Workshop in Malawi in April 2023, I have also reached out on several occasions to, and met with, the Minister for Post and Telecommunications to encourage swift action.”**

**– HON. AGHO OLIVER BAMENJU, MP (CAMEROON),**  
*Chair of PGA's National Group*

A second strategic convening, the [Caribbean Regional Workshop on the Universalization of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its Additional Protocols](#), was held in July 2023. It was attended by 13 parliamentarians, representing Barbados, Grenada, St Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

PGA's [44<sup>th</sup> Annual Parliamentary Forum](#) also dedicated a panel to [“Preserving Women Parliamentarians’ Leadership in the Face of Cyber Harassment and Attacks.”](#)

Parliamentarians and experts discussed the escalating issue of cyber harassment, especially against

women parliamentarians, and underscored the vital role of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime as a foundational framework to combat online harassment.

**PGA 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum**

**PRESERVING WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS’ LEADERSHIP IN THE FACE OF CYBER HARASSMENT AND ATTACKS**



*Caribbean Regional Workshop on the Universalization of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its Additional Protocols, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; 5-6 July 2023. Credit: Florian Delsert*

## Campaign to Address the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and to Promote the Arms Trade Treaty

The [SALW/ATT Campaign](#) seeks to contribute to a reduction in armed violence, and threat of armed violence, worldwide as a result of consequential steps to address the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), promoting implementation of the UN Program 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). This aim is based on the linkages between regulation of SALW and peace and security as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 16, particularly Target 16.4 to significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

*The SALW Campaign received core support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) as well as project support from the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).*

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In March 2023, PGA developed and disseminated the African Regional Plan of Action, “[Promoting Female Parliamentary Engagement in Support of the Silencing the Guns in Africa Initiative.](#)” The Plan of Action outlines specific measures that Parliamentarians can undertake to combat the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in Africa and, as of December 2023, was signed by parliamentarians and government officials from:



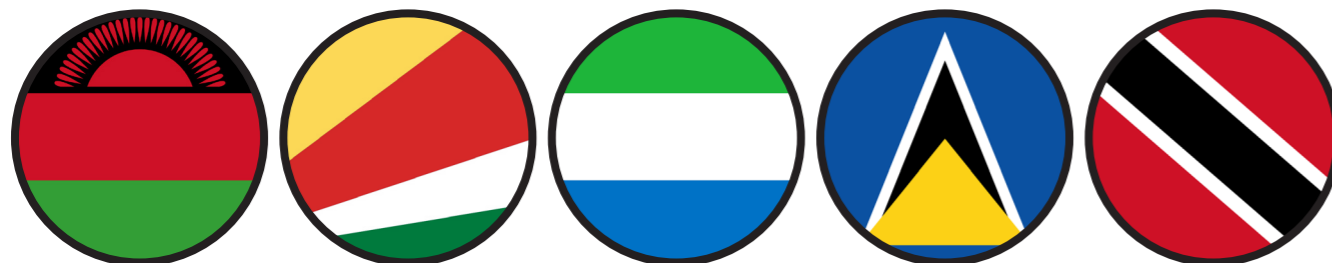
Burkina Faso

Cameroon

Central African Republic

Dem. Rep. Congo

The Gambia



Kenya

Sierra Leone

Tanzania

Uganda

Zimbabwe

### Regional Plan of Action

#### PROMOTING FEMALE PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA INITIATIVE

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023



[DOWNLOAD](#)



In October 2023, Hon. Margarita Stolbizer, MP (Argentina) and member of PGA's Executive Committee [initiated a bill](#) requesting that the National Executive Power provide information on the arms control policies implemented since 2020 in compliance with the Arms Trade Treaty.

## 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Parliamentary Forum

The National Assembly of Seychelles hosted our 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Parliamentary Forum convening 76 parliamentarians and experts on November 15-16, 2023 in a virtual platform.

### THIRD CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR THE OCEANS

On Day 1, PGA convened the [3<sup>rd</sup> Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the Oceans \(CAP-Oceans\)](#) and launched PGA's new Campaign for Universality and Implementation of the High Seas Treaty as a member organization of the High Seas Alliance.

The event brought together 56 parliamentarians from 34 countries as well as experts, civil society representatives and other key stakeholders to discuss the importance of the historic UN High Seas Treaty. PGA disseminated the [Factsheet for Parliamentarians on the United Nations High Seas Treaty: A Historic Agreement to Protect the Ocean](#) with participants in [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#), providing parliamentarians with an overview of the treaty and opportunities to take action towards the universality and implementation of the agreement.



#### Background Note: The High Seas Treaty



A [recording](#) of the CAP-Oceans is available.



#### CAP-Oceans III

#### THIRD CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR THE OCEANS (CAP-OCEANS)

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023



### SECURING DEMOCRACY IN A DIGITAL AGE: LAUNCH OF THE PARLIAMENTARY TOOLBOX FOR DEMOCRACY DEFENSE AND PROTECTING WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE FACE OF CYBERATTACKS

On Day 2 of the Annual Forum, PGA launched its [Parliamentary Toolbox for Democracy Defense](#), a compendium of practical resources to support legislators in tackling different facets of democratic backsliding and recognizing the early signs of democratic erosion. It includes guidelines, best practices and case studies from countries around the world. Participating parliamentarians stressed that, by using the Toolbox as a tool for vigilance, MPs can strengthen their commitment to the principles underpinning a democratic society, as it is their duty to stand united and resolute in the face of any threat to democratic values.

During the second panel on "[Preserving Women Parliamentarians' Leadership in the Face of Cyber Harassment and Attacks](#)," parliamentarians discussed the escalating issue of cyber harassment, particularly targeting women and children, including women parliamentarians. The panel underscored the vital role of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, advocating for its universalization and implementation as a foundational framework to combat online harassment.

#### PGA 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum

#### PRESERVING WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS' LEADERSHIP IN THE FACE OF CYBER HARASSMENT AND ATTACKS



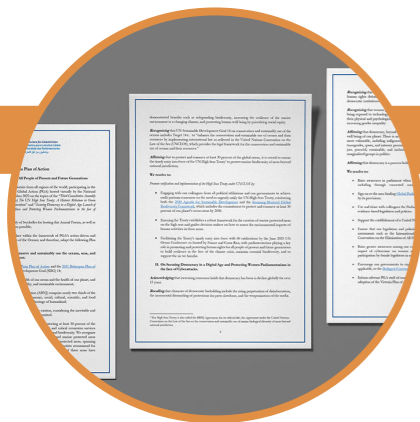
"When women are attacked on social media, they tend to leave social media & be less visible online. We need more visibility of women. In Argentina, we have adopted legislation originating from Mexico to promote and protect the rights of women in digital space."

– DIP. MARGARITA STOLBIZER, (ARGENTINA),  
PGA Executive Committee Member

Parliamentarians also discussed the [global call to establish a United Nations Special Rapporteur on Democracy](#) (UNRoD), spearheaded by Democracy Without Borders (DWB) and a coalition of civil society organizations, including PGA.

The establishment of a UNRoD would help strengthen democracy and democratization around the world – particularly from an institutional point of view. The mandate would include sharing best practices that countries could tailor to their national contexts and emulate by analyzing constitutional and institutional frameworks, monitoring electoral processes with a focus on being free, fair, transparent and competitive and measuring data on the effectiveness of parliaments and the level of political participation of the citizenry.

At the conclusion of the Annual Forum, parliamentarians adopted the [Victoria Plan of Action](#) to describe commitments and follow up actions. It is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#).



### Victoria Plan of Action

**ADOPTED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023



[DOWNLOAD](#)



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- [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\)](#)

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- [Environmental Law Institute](#)
- [Fauna and Flora International](#)
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- [Pew Charitable Trusts](#)
- [Sigrid Rausing Trust](#)
- [UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation \(UNSCAR\)](#)

#### GOVERNMENTS

- [Global Affairs Canada](#)
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- Mr. Paul Deloo, Partner, [Buren Advocaten](#), The Hague
- Mr. Martin Domb, Partner, [Akerman LLP](#)
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### FINANCIALS

PGA's audited accounts [are available on our website](#).



A Parliamentary Delegation of PGA Members from Honduras participated in the VI Conference of LGBTI Political Leaders in the Americas and the Caribbean, organized by the Victory Institute and its partners, Mexico City; 20-22 July 2023

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