

Kinshasa / Santo Domingo, 8 March 2015

"Celebrated since 1911, International Women's Day, is a great opportunity to recall and to welcome the adoption of the Office of the Prosecution's Policy Paper on Sexual and Gender-based Crimes (July 2014), as it demonstrates the Office's commitment to investigate and prosecute the worst perpetrators of sexual and gender based crimes and by doing so, deter potential perpetrators from such actions in the future. We encourage all the organs of the International Criminal Court to support, in their different functions and roles this commendable effort in the quest to bring justice to victims of these crimes and to promote the rights of women and girls.

While significant steps have been taken to advance, domestic and international justice for women and girls, we should remain ever vigilant and be pro-active: As Members of Parliament, we call on our colleagues, both men and women from Parliaments of the world to do their best to ensure the enactment of the relevant domestic implementing legislation, highlighting a gender-sensitive approach designed to prosecute alleged perpetrators of sexual and gender based crimes and also to guarantee equal access to justice for men and women.

The ICC, through all its organs, has a very important role to play in enhancing international justice for women and girls and legislators around the world should use their powers to strengthen their support and cooperation with the court."

Honorable Député Dieudonné UPIRA SUNGUMA Président du Comité de Suivi de la loi de mise en œuvre du Statut de Rome

PGA member, Dieudonné Upira Sunguma, MP, Chairperson of the PGA-DRC national group PGA President Dip. Minou Tavarez Mirabal

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