I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND GOAL

While most Governments in the Middle East and the Mediterranean have expressed support for the ICC, few have taken the necessary steps to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute. As of today, while 121 State are parties to the Rome Statute, in the Middle East, only Jordan in 2002 and Tunisia in 2011 decided to join the system of the ICC.


The goal of the Working Group is "To reinforce the rule of law and principles of democracy by promoting universal participation in the ICC system and full adherence to the Statute’s norms through effective national implementation of the Rome Statute in national legal orders, with a particular focus on the Middle East and the Mediterranean.”

The Working Group follows a format of closed-door political, legal and strategic consultations among a selected group of Parliamentarians from the region whereby experts and ICC officials are invited to provide specific input and to participate in inter-active dialogue. The discussions take place in Arabic, French and English.

For the 5th session, the Working Group met under the gracious auspices of the House of Representatives of Morocco, in Rabat on 17 and 18 May 2012.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN RABAT

The meeting of the Working Group in Rabat will seek to address the following objectives:

1. Understanding the scope and role of the Rome Statute in the protection of the civilian population,
2. Understanding the contribution of the Rome Statute to the promotion and consolidation of the Rule of Law and the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern,
3. Analyzing the operation of the principle of complementarity and its impact on domestic legal orders,
4. Understand the challenges and progress of the ICC in various situations around the world,
5. Analyzing the perception of “double-standards” purportedly applied by international institutions, which may be detrimental to a “rules-based international order”,
6. Discussing the crime of aggression following the adoption of a definition at the Review Conference in Kampala, and
7. Boosting the ratification process and identifying possible obstacles to overcome to get there.
III. PROGRAMME

Thursday 17 May: Salle Marocaine
09h-09h30

Opening of the Working Group Consultations
Mr. Mohammed Yatim, 1st Vice-President, Chamber of Representatives Moroccan Parliament
Mr. Driss Lachguar, MP, Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires (USFP)
H.E. Amb. Tiina Intelmann, Présidente de l’Assemblée des États parties au Statut de Rome de la CPI
Mr. Coskun Çöüz, MP (Pays-Bas), Deputy-Convenor, International Law and Human Rights Programme, PGA; Rapporteur on Human Rights, Parliamentary Assembly OSCE
Mr. Mohammed Benabdessadeq, MP, Justice and Development Party

10-11h

Tour de table: Challenges to the prevention of international crimes in the Arab region

11h-11h30

Nomination of Rapporteurs and Approval of the Agenda of the Meeting

11h30

The ICC in the system of international justice and international politics
Amb. Tiina Intelmann, President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC

Interactive Discussion

13h

Lunch offered by the Parliament of Morocco

15h

Amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression
Deborah Ruiz Verduzco, Deputy-Director, International Law and Human Rights Programme, Parliamentarians for Global Action

Developments at the International Criminal Court
Dr. Rod Rastan, Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC

The Issue of Immunity for Heads of States at the International Level
Maitre Mohammed Ayat, Advisor to the National Commission of Human Rights, former Legal Advisor, Office of the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for Rwanda

Interactive Discussion

19.30

Dinner   Restaurant le Grand Comptoir (279 Boulevard Mohamed V)

…continues
Friday 18 May: Parliament of Morocco: Salle Marocaine

9h30

The Rome Statute and International Humanitarian Law
Prof. Mohammed El Bazzaz, National Commission of International Humanitarian Law, Morocco

Importance of the harmonization of the Rome Statute with domestic criminal law
Prof. Mohamed Ftouhi, International Humanitarian Law Researcher

Civil society, democracy and the Rule of Law
Ms. Fatima Zohra Boukaissi, Secretary-General, ADALA
Ms. Leila Hanafi, Regional Coordinator for MENA Region, NGO Coalition for the ICC, International Secretariat
Mr. Hicham Cherkaoui, Expert on Fight Against Impunity, Advisor of PGA, Moroccan Coalition for the ICC

Commentary by Dr. David Donat Cattin, Senior Director, International Law and Human Rights Programme, Parliamentarians for Global Action

Commentary by Ms. Latifa Jbabdi, Union de l’Action Féminin, former-member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Morocco

Report from the Discussions
Ms. Fatihà Moukni, MP (Morocco)
Ms. Souad Abderrahim, MP (Tunisia)
Mr. Abdessamad Idrissi, MP (Morocco)

Strategic Discussion on priority topics and Agreement on Action

12.30

Closing lunch offered by Parliamentarians for Global Action, Hotel Golden Tulip Farah

[Departure of Participants]
IV. PARTICIPANTS

PARLIAMENTARIANS

EGYPT

1. Dr. Adel Afify, MP
   Deputy Chair, Human Rights Committee
   Al Asala Party

JORDAN

2. Mr. Jamel Nimri, MP
   Democratic block

MOROCCO

3. Mr. Mohamed Yatim, MP
   First Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Representatives
   Justice and Development Party

4. Mr. Abdeslam Ballaji, MP
   Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad
   Justice and Development Party

5. Mr. Mohamed Benabdessadeq, MP
   Vice-Chair, Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee
   Justice and Development Party

6. Ms. Naima Benyahia, MP
   Social Sectors Committee
   Istiqlal Party

7. Dr. Jamal Bouzidi, MP
   Infrastructure, Energy, Mines and Environnement Committee
   Istiqlal Party

8. Mr. Roudani Cherkaoui, MP
   Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee
   Authenticity and Modernity Party

9. Ms. Fouzia Elbayed, MP
   Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee
   Constitutional Union

10. Mr. Ali Elyazaghi, MP
    Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee
    Socialist Union of Popular Forces

11. Ms. Rakiya Eddarhem, MP
    Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad
    Socialist Union of Popular Forces

12. Mr. Mokhtar Ghambou, MP
    Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad
    Popular movement

13. Mr. Mohamed Hanine, MP
    Chair, Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee
    National Rally of Independents

14. Mr. Abessamad Idrissi, MP
    Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee
    Justice and Development Party

15. Dr. Ahmed Jodar, MP
    Social Sectors Committee
    Justice and Development Party

16. Mr. Mohamed Khairy, MP
    Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee
    Justice and Development Party

17. Mr. Hamza Kantaoui, MP
    Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad
    Justice and Development Party

18. Mr. Ali Kebiri, MP
    Chair, Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad
    Popular movement

19. Mr. Driss Lachguar, MP
    Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee
    Socialist Union of Popular Forces
20. Mr. Abdessamed Lhaiker, MP  
Higher Education, Culture and Communication Committee  
*Justice and Development Party*

21. Mr. Chaabi Mohcine, MP  
Finance and Economic Development Committee  
*Al-Mustaqbal*

22. Ms. Fatiha Moukrii, MP  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee  
*Istiqlal Party*

23. Mr. Abdellatif Naciri, MP  
Social Sectors Committee  
*Justice and Development Party*

24. Ms. Lahlou Oum El Banine, MP  
Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad  
*Constitutional Union*

25. Mr. Abdelkhalak Quarrouti, MP  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee  
*Socialist Union of Popular Forces*

26. Ms. Rachida Tahri, MP  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee  
*Progress and Socialism Party*

**TUNISIA**

27. Mr. Larbi Ben Salah Abid, MP  
Deputy Speaker, Constituent Assembly  
*Republican Congress*

28. Ms. Souad Abderrahim, MP  
Chair, Legislation and Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Ennadha*

**YEMEN**

29. Mr. Ali Ashal, MP  
Development and Oil Committee  
*Aslah Party*

30. Mr. Ali M. Al-Mamari, MP  
Development and Oil Committee  
*Free Coalition*

**THE NETHERLANDS**

31. Mr. Coskun Çörüz, MP  
Spokesperson on Justice and Human Rights, CDA;  
Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee;  
Rapporteur on Human Rights, OSCE;  
Parliamentary Assembly  
Deputy-Convenor, International Law and Human Rights Programme, PGA

**ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE**

32. Amb. Tiina Intelmann  
President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC

**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

33. Dr. Rod Rastan  
Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND NATIONAL INSTANCES

34. Mr. Hicham Balawi
   Ministry of Justice
   Morocco

35. Mr. Said Derkaoui
   Ministry of Relations with Parliament, Office of Min. Choubani
   Morocco

36. Mr. Mohammed Ayat
   National Council for Human Rights, Morocco
   Former Senior Legal Advisor, Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

37. Dr. Mohammed El Bazzaz
   National Commission of International Humanitarian Law
   Morocco

EXPERTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

1. Ms. Leila Hanafi
   Regional Coordinator for MENA Region
   NGO Coalition for the ICC, International Secretariat (CICC)

2. Ms. Fatima Zohra Boukaissi
   Secretary-General, ADALA

3. Mr. Mohamed Ftouhi
   International Humanitarian Law Researcher

4. Ms. Latifa Jbabdi
   Union de l’Action Féminine
   Former member of Parliament and former member of the Moroccan Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and former member of PGA

5. Mr. Hassan Maaouni
   President, Development Initiatives and Rule of Law Consolidation Forum
   Former 2nd Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Morocco
SECRETARIAT

PARLIAMENT OF MOROCCO

6. M. Najib El Khadi
   Secretary-General

7. Mr. El Mustapha Nassiri
   Chief of Press, Information and Public Relations

8. Mr. Youssef Ait Zedib
   Protocol

9. Ms. Hafida Idbelhaj
   Protocol

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

International law and Human Rights Programme

10. Dr. David Donat Cattin
    Senior Director

11. Ms. Deborah Ruiz Verduzco
    Deputy-Director

12. Ms. Leyla Nikjou
    Programme Officer

13. Ms. Maia Trujillo
    Programme Associate

14. Mr. Hicham Cherkaoui
    Expert on Fight Against Impunity; Moroccan Coalition for the ICC
    Consultant for PGA

15. Ms. Alba I. Leon
    Support from The Hague Office

V. ABOUT PGA

Founded in 1979, PGA is network of more than 1300 individual Parliamentarians from 130 countries of all regions of the world. PGA contributed to the creation of the ICC, and is conducting a global Campaign for the Universality of the ICC since the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998. PGA Members have led, authored and achieved ratifications of the Rome Statute in 75 countries of the current 121 members to the Rome Statute.

PGA’s Secretariat operates from its United Nations Office (in New York) and its Office before the ICC (in The Hague).

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This document can be downloaded from: www.pgaction.org/activity/2012/Rabat-ICC.html
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