OCEANS CAMPAIGN

Protecting the Oceans and Implementing SDG 14

"DIALOGUE IS IMPORTANT, EVEN FOR LANDLOCKED STATES, AS ALL STATES VOTE ON AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE STANDARD ON GLOBAL ISSUES."

Hon. Petra Bayr, member of the National Council of Austria, Treasurer of PGA, during the Strategic Roundtable Discussion on IUU and CTA on 8 June 2018.

GOAL

To ensure the sustainability of the world’s oceans and to end human rights violations associated with illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, through increased transparency in the fisheries sector and seafood industry.

+ Build political will and capacity for the national implementation of international agreements, such as:
  - The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Cape Town Agreement (CTA).
  - The Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).
  - The International Labour Organization (ILO) Work in Fishing Convention (C188).

+ Mobilize parliamentarians to implement SDG 14, including:
  - 14.4. By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, IUU fishing, and destructive fishing practices.
  - 14.6. By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and over fishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing.
  - 14.b. Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

TARGET COUNTRIES

While PGA’s Oceans Campaign is currently working on case studies in several countries, it is a global campaign.

The Oceans Campaign’s first global gathering of legislators will be co-hosted by the Parliament of Cape Verde in November 2019.

This Campaign receives the support of:

PGA receives the core support of the Governments of Sweden (Sida) & Denmark.
**Recent and future activities**


21 October 2019: Panel discussion with parliamentarians on CTA, PSMA, and C188, at the sidelines of IMO International Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and IUU Fishing (Torremolinos, Spain)

26 September 2019: “MEPs for Safe Seas”: Panel discussion in European Parliament to mark World Maritime Day (Brussels, Belgium) [TBC]

15 July 2019: PGA Board Meeting during the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in collaboration with Pew Charitable Trusts to discuss implementation of PGA’s Oceans Campaign (New York, USA).

**Ongoing**

1) Utilize peer-to-peer dialogue and country-specific strategies to educate, sensitize, build the technical capacity and strengthen the political will of parliamentarians in order to take ownership, concrete initiatives and legislative actions.

2) Provide technical assistance upon request to support the drafting of instruments (motions, resolutions, bills) that promote ratification/accession and/or implementation of international treaties.

3) Facilitate dialogue between civil society and parliamentarians.

4) Build bridges among domestic and international policymakers, stakeholders, and organizations promoting ocean transparency (FAO, IMO, ILO).

5) Create and disseminate a Law and Governance Toolkit for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries that provides parliamentarians and other relevant stakeholders with a range of regulatory tools, approaches, and legal language.

"Malaysia’s efforts on the fishing IUU cannot be done in silo (...). The avenue to dialog is very much needed, and collective political and social can spur the various governments in this region to work towards a better tomorrow."

Hon. Kula Segaran, member of the Dewan Rakyat and Minister of Human Resources of Malaysia, member of PGA’s Executive Committee and Co-Convenor of PGA’s International Law and Human Rights Programme.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

Honoring our name, we have materialized our goal through concrete actions with significant results.

To date, PGA has contributed to:

+ The approval of the CTA through the Spanish parliament during the Senate plenary seating 47 on 7 November 2018

+ Raising the parliamentary question to the Council of the European Union on the status of CTA ratification, which was responded positively with reference to the upcoming IMO International Conference on how to facilitate the entry into force of the Agreement.

+ Drafting a strategic plan to implement the Oceans Campaign during PGA’s Strategic Roundtable Discussion on IUU Fishing and the Cape Town Agreement.

+ Informing and mobilizing parliamentarians around the world on the Oceans Campaign by circulating a letter drafted by the President of PGA among the organization’s global membership.