



Parliamentarians for Global Action

PGA Regional Seminars on Strengthening United Nations Peace Operations – International Parliamentary Input

ACCRA DECLARATION

We members of nine national parliaments for Angola, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Senegal, gathered in Accra, Ghana, January 21 and 22, 2002.

- Recognizing the urgent need of establishing an effective regime of conflict prevention, resolution, and peace-building in order to allay the impacts of war throughout the world;
- Confident in the integral role of national parliaments in the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- Cognizant of the efforts which began in Lusaka, Zambia and have progressed in Accra, Ghana, and would continue in Cairo, Egypt, New Delhi, India, and New York, USA to define the specific nature of the role of parliaments in peace operations;

Hereby resolve to comprehensively pursue the following in order to develop a coherent plan of action for parliamentary involvement in peace operations:

- Ensure the development of effective conflict prevention mechanisms backed by appropriate authority and resources at both the national and multinational levels;
- Ensure the development of effective peacekeeping institutions backed by appropriate authority and resources, especially in regard to multilateral institutions such as the UN;
- Ensure effective Parliamentary control of budgetary expenditures for any and all UN or other peace operations in order to ensure both credibility and appropriate levels of support;
- Continue to provide fora for dialogue and airing of grievances to negotiate power disputes, and address economic, social, and legal inequality, which can prevent a society from breaking down into violent conflict in the first place;
- Commit states to ensure implementation of worldwide peacekeeping and peace building strategies such as the use of appropriate sanctions and arms embargoes amongst others;
- Create public support for peace operations through public education campaigns;
- The development of capacity of all parliaments to meet the challenges of peace operations;
- Provide guidance to new or fledgling parliaments especially in post-conflict situations on the methods, norms and values of democratic governance;

- Develop regional strategies for national parliaments to serve as liaisons with neighboring countries and regional groupings in order to establish effective regimes of conflict prevention;
- That the UN should explore with urgency avenues of establishing direct communication with democratically elected parliaments.
- Provide support to international peace operations, especially limited regional expertise, through the provision of civilian and military experts to UN operations;
- Strengthen inter-regional dialogue especially at the parliamentary level to ensure a continual discussion for the improvement of conflict prevention and peacekeeping mechanisms;
- Support and participate in peace operations through inter-parliamentary bodies;
- Call for the full implementation of the recommendations made in the Report on UN Peace Operations (Brahimi Report), especially as they relate to parliaments at both the level of the UN and within individual countries with emphasis on:
 - 1) Increasing member state involvement in peace operations;
 - 2) Improving the capacity of military personnel to participate in peace operations;
 - 3) Improving the capacity of civilian and police personnel to participate in peace operations;
 - 4) Improving logistics support and the expenditure management system;
 - 5) Improving preventive action;
 - 6) Improving peacekeeping doctrine and strategy;
 - 7) Developing clear, credible and achievable mandates;
 - 8) Improving mission leadership.

Dated in Accra, Ghana this 22nd Day of January 2002