



Parliamentarians for Global Action

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

CAIRO DECLARATION

We members of nine national parliaments for Burundi, Central African Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United Kingdom, gathered in Cairo, Egypt, February 27 and 28, 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;
- Acknowledging the important role of PGA through parliamentary diplomacy to bring peace in various regions and to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to respond to national and sub-regional security;
- Cognizant of the efforts which are part of a comprehensive review of UN peace operations, with a view to broadening the political legitimacy of UN collective security actions, and ensure that those actions reflect the interests of all Member States;
- Recognizing that review at the parliamentary level began in Accra, Ghana, and has progressed in Cairo, Egypt, and would continue in New Delhi, India, and New York, USA to define the specific nature of the role of parliaments in peace operations and include parliamentary involvement in budgets for peacekeeping 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 and peacekeeping mechanisms backed by appropriate authority and resources, especially in regard to multilateral institutions such as the UN;
- That the UN should develop a system of preventive peacekeeping by which UN troops could be deployed in a crisis situation;
- To help ensure that UN peacekeeping operations are financed promptly and fully, by contributions to various Trust Funds for peacekeeping operations;
- To have the General Assembly delegate authority to the Secretary-General to seek advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice on the legal aspects of border disputes that could threaten international peace and security;

- Provide support to international peace operations, especially limited regional expertise, through the provision of civilian and military experts to UN operations;
- That the UN should explore with urgency avenues of strengthening working relations with democratically elected parliamentarians, as building democratic systems of governance nationally and internationally is itself a peace-building measure;
- Continue to provide parliamentary fora for dialogue and airing of grievances, to deploy PGA's Task Force for Peace and Democracy, to negotiate power disputes and resolve conflicts, address economic, social, and legal inequality;
- Provide guidance to new or fledgling parliaments especially in post-conflict situations on the methods, norms and values of democratic governance;
- Develop peace-making capacities of national parliaments to serve as liaisons with neighboring countries and regional groupings in order to break the vicious cycle of violent conflict and poverty;
- Create public support for peace operations through public education campaigns;
- Commend PGA in peace operations and pledge to support and participate in interparliamentary peace-making;
- Recalls that all PGA members are drawn from democratic legislatures, and expresses the hope that elections in all countries are free and fair, and are open to the scrutiny of local or international observers and the press.

Dated in Cairo, Egypt this 28th Day of February 2002

Signed by Name and Country