



## PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

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### **PARLIAMENTARIANS OPPOSE RENEWAL OF RESOLUTION 1422: URGE CRITICAL DEBATE AT OPEN MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL**

NEW YORK; *June 11, 2003* – The open meeting of the Security Council on Resolution 1422 (2002) must carefully consider the need, merit and legality of a renewal of the resolution, said Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) today. The organization strongly opposes this possible renewal. Also, PGA welcomes the open meeting as an opportunity to assess the implications of a twelve-month extension of Resolution 1422 on the International Criminal Court (ICC), the UN Charter, and principles of international law, such as the duty of states to prosecute international crimes.

“PGA members have invested much time and effort towards the establishment of the ICC,” said Senator A. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada), convenor of the organization’s International Law and Human Rights Program. “As parliamentarians committed to the fight against impunity, we expect our governments to reaffirm their support for the ICC and take into account the compelling arguments against Resolution 1422 before the Security Council takes action on its renewal.”

Resolution 1422, adopted last July, provides UN peacekeeping personnel from countries that have not ratified the Rome Statute with a 12-month suspension from investigation or prosecution for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity by the Court. It is due to expire on June 30, 2003. An open meeting of the Security Council on this matter has been scheduled for Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, and it is expected that the Council will vote on the renewal shortly thereafter.

At various parliamentary conferences around the world, PGA members have vowed to uphold the principle of equality of all before the law. The organization fears that a renewal of Resolution 1422 would not only put a certain class of persons above the law, but may also endorse the view that the Security Council can amend multilateral treaties by unlawfully acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter in the absence of a threat to the peace. Additionally, unopposed rollovers of the resolution each year could eventually lead to the development of customary rules against the universality of international justice. A critical public debate will serve as a record of opposition to counter such negative consequences should Resolution 1422 be renewed.

Reflecting the concerns of the organization, several PGA members have questioned their respective governments on Resolution 1422 and urged them to protect the integrity of the newly established ICC.

The Court was conceived as a preventive tool against mass atrocities, which too often have gone unpunished. “One day we will be in the position to witness how the ICC deterred a dictator or a leader from ordering the killing of a human being – this is the true significance of the Court,” said Andreychuk. With the swearing in of the first ICC Prosecutor, Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo of Argentina, on June 16<sup>th</sup> in The Hague, the Court will soon serve its purpose and play a complementary role in investigating gross crimes committed under its jurisdiction, including the recent tragic events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

*PGA is an association of 1350 legislators from 105 countries united to promote the resolution of global issues such as peace and democracy, sustainable development, international law and human rights. PGA members have promoted the establishment of the ICC since 1989 when A.N.R. Robinson, then Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago and convenor of PGA’s International Law program, introduced the ICC in the U.N. General Assembly agenda. Since its adoption, PGA members have promoted the ratification and effective implementation of the Rome Statute, which entered into force on July 1, 2002.*

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