

PGA

annual report 2003

Parliamentarians for Global Action



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Programme Activities 2003	3
Message from the President	5
PGA's 25th Annual Parliamentary Forum: PGA's 25th Anniversary Tribute	7
Peace and Democracy Programme Report	12
International Law and Human Rights Programme Report	16
PGA Members and Activities Worldwide	21
Sustainable Development and Population Programme Report	23
PGA 2003 Executive Committee and International Council	25
PGA 2003 United Nations Committee	27
Financial Report	28
Donors	30
Staff	32
About PGA	33

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES 2003

September 16, 2003
PGA's 25th Anniversary Tribute (Washington, D.C.)

Peace and Democracy Programme

February 2003
Consultative Mission (Freetown, Sierra Leone)

May 2003
Consultative Mission (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)

May 2003
Consultative Mission (Harare, Zimbabwe)

September 2003
Greek-Turkish Consultations (New York, N.Y.)

September 2003
Briefing to PGA's International Council and Mediation Sessions with Côte d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, and Venezuela delegations
(Washington, D.C.)

September 2003
Peer-to-Peer Dialogue among African and United States Legislators: Role of Parliamentarians in Peacemaking and
Peacebuilding: the cases of Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Zimbabwe and ECOWAS (Washington, D.C.)

November 2003
Follow-up Assessment Mission to the Parliament of Zimbabwe (Harare, Zimbabwe)

International Law and Human Rights Programme

January 2003

Briefing on the Implementing Legislation to Incorporate the Rome Statute into Nigerian Law (Abuja, Nigeria)

February 2003

Regional Parliamentary Conference for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): The International Criminal Court and the Promotion of the Rule of Law (Moscow, Russia)

February 2003

PGA representation on the panel on ICC and the Rule of Law at the Annual Forum of the Inter Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) (Asamblea Legislativa de Panamá, Panama City)

April 2003

Strategy Meeting on the International Criminal Court: Protecting the Integrity of the Rome Statute (United Nations, New York)

September 2003

A Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law – II session (United Nations, New York)

Sustainable Development and Population Programme

June 2003

Parliamentary Meeting on HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with the Policy Project (Bamako, Mali)

October 2003

PGA delegation at ICPD Steering Committee Meeting (Brussels, Belgium)

December 2003

Parliamentary Seminar on Budgeting (Bamako, Mali)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HON. KENNETH DZIRASAH, MP (GHANA)
SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER



Over the past 25 years, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) established itself as a unique organization driven by individual legislators addressing pressing global issues such as peace, democracy, international law, human rights, nuclear disarmament, sustainable development and population. To commemorate the international achievements made throughout the years, PGA celebrated its 25th Anniversary on September 16, 2003 at the United States Congress in Washington, D.C., where it was originally founded in 1978. PGA members reunited to discuss accomplishments of the past - such as the Six-Nation Peace Initiative, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the International Criminal Court - as well as issues that still need to be addressed around the world.

PGA's three programmes, Peace and Democracy, International Law and Human Rights and Sustainable Development and Population, continue to galvanize parliamentary leadership at the national and international levels to address political concerns around the world.

In 2003, the Peace and Democracy Programme continued its work in Africa. Through the Task Force, PGA sent consultative missions to Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Zimbabwe. The mission to Sierra Leone, which took place in February, focused on such issues as strengthening the role of parliamentary committees, government-opposition relations and decentralization. PGA also participated in the Symposium on Local Democracy and

Governance in Sierra Leone which was organized by International IDEA and the local NGO Campaign for Good Governance (CGG). PGA's mission in Côte d'Ivoire was sent in May to address the need for consensus building among the political parties in the National Assembly in support of implementing the Linas-Marcoussis Peace Accords. PGA successfully brought together leaders from different political parties inside and outside the National Assembly to discuss the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and the obstacles that must be overcome.

After a successful multi-party consultation by a nine-member delegation of Zimbabwean parliamentarians, PGA deployed a Consultative Mission to the Parliament of Zimbabwe in Harare in May 2003. Discussions with government and opposition MPs focused on the rule of law, greater cooperation with international institutions and Zimbabwe's ratification of the Rome Statute. In November, Executive Committee member Ms. Thandi Modise, MP (South Africa), who participated in the May 2003 Consultative Mission, met with Zimbabwean MPs and H.E. Ms. Kristina Svensson, Ambassador of Sweden to Zimbabwe, in Harare to discuss how PGA can assist in reopening dialogue between the governing and opposition parties.

PGA's briefing on Peer-to-Peer Dialogue among African and United States Legislators: Parliamentary Peacemaking in the cases of Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Zimbabwe and ECOWAS took place in

conjunction with PGA's 25th Anniversary Tribute. The briefing was hosted by PGA member Rep. Donald Payne (United States) in the United State Congress, Washington, D.C. Legislators from West Africa, Uganda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Denmark, Canada and the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) engaged in a discussion with members of the United States House of Representatives on the peacemaking issues affecting Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Zimbabwe.

The International Law and Human Rights Programme successfully mobilized legislators to take political action to reinforce the rule of law through the International Criminal Court (ICC). The second session of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law took place September 12-13, 2003 at United Nations Headquarters in New York and included participants from 68 countries. This annual event brings together parliamentarians, experts and ICC officials such as the Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, prosecutor for the Court, to enhance understanding of the Court with discussions and debates on ratification, implementation and protecting the integrity of the Rome Statute. Participants adopted the New York Declaration on Parliamentary Action in Support of the ICC.

To further the ICC campaign, PGA identified several underrepresented regions in the Court's system and decided to raise the awareness of parliamentarians in these



8th Annual Defender of Democracy Awards
 Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana),
 President of PGA; Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi, PGA
 Secretary-General



Dip. Minou Tavarez Mirabal (Dominican Republic);
 Rep. Dennis Kucinich (United States)

regions to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute. On February 11-12, 2003, PGA convened a regional parliamentary conference for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) that took place in the Russian Duma in Moscow. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to involve legislators from the region in PGA's ICC-related work. Participants adopted the Moscow Declaration which expressed the commitment of parliamentarians to promote the adoption of the Rome Statute in their countries by keeping their parliaments and civil society informed and urging their governments to join the States Parties.

PGA held its first strategy meeting titled Protecting the Integrity of the ICC at UN Headquarters on April 22, 2003. Participants discussed implementation of the Ottawa Plan of Action on the ICC which was signed during PGA's 24th Annual Forum in Ottawa, Canada. The meeting also addressed the legal and political implications of UN Security Council Resolution 1422 and the Bilateral Non-Surrender Agreements. This was the first in a series of strategy meetings that will continue in 2004.

In preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) + 10, PGA's Sustainable Development and Population (SDP) Programme, participated in the Steering Committee for the Parliamentary Conference on ICPD (IPCI) meeting held in October 2003 in Brussels, Belgium. Mr. Tony Worthington, MP (United Kingdom),

Convenor of the SDP Programme, presented PGA's work on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and discussed the plans for the Second IPCI meeting which will take place October 2004 in Strasbourg, France.

The SDP Programme successfully continued its Junior Project Officer (JPO) Programme in Nigeria and Mali. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ECOWAS and PGA which detailed collaboration between the two parties on sustainable development issues in the region.

In its 25th year, PGA continues to be guided by its original vision of promoting inter-parliamentary collaboration to mobilize global political action for an equitable, safe and democratic world. PGA's members are dedicated to bringing about progress and positive change.*



Mr. Moses Mzila-Ndlovu, MP (Zimbabwe);
 Sen. Anthony Johnson (Jamaica)

25TH ANNUAL FORUM

PGA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

On the occasion of its 25th Anniversary, members of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) held a commemorative tribute on September 16, 2003 in Washington, DC. The venue of the United States Congress was significant, as one of the original founding members, former Sen. Paul Simon, was a member of the United States Senate in 1978.

The discussions were held in both the Senate building as well as the House of Representatives at the invitation of the Tribute hosts, Sen. Tom Harkin (United States), Rep. Carolyn Maloney (United States) and Rep. Dennis Kucinich (United States). The hosts, having been actively involved with the organization's work in a number of program areas, demonstrated the renewed commitment of the parliamentarians of the United States to engage the international community in foreign policy decisions affecting constituents in represented countries worldwide.

Legislators from over 73 countries participated in the event which totaled over 200 participants. Many of the international parliamentarians welcomed the opportunity to engage with members of the United States Congress, and expressed the hope that Senators and Representatives from the US would continue to remain engaged in critical political and social developments in the international arena.

Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana), Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament and President of PGA, and Sen. Doug Roche (Canada), the first PGA President, opened the morning session, held in the Senate building. Hon. Dzirasah noted how PGA has developed into one of the most critically important parliamentary organizations within the past 25 years. He recognized the invaluable contributions of former PGA Presidents Sen. Roche (Canada), H.E. Mr. Olafur Grimsson (President of Iceland), Mr. Warren Allmand (Canada), Sen. Sylvia Hernandez (Mexico), Mr. Murli Deora (India), Mr. Moses Katjuongua, MP (Namibia), Mr. Allan Rogers (United Kingdom) and Mr. Karl-Goran Biorstmark (Sweden). Members over the years have taken leadership roles and strived to produce tangible results on sustainable development and population concerns, peace and security, human rights, the rule of law, the strengthening of democratic institutions and the empowerment of women. For instance, the work of the organization's members in lobbying their governments to sign and ratify the Rome Statute led to the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Members still continue to work to ensure that national legislation is relevant and effective in adhering to the Statute.

Sen. Roche paid tribute to the founders of PGA's predecessor, Parliamentarians for World Order, formed during a special session on disarmament in 1977. From these

beginnings, the organization's work led to the creation of the Six-Nation Initiative, as well as critical work on the Chemical Test Ban Treaty, landmines, population and women's issues.

Sen. Tom Harkin (United States) welcomed the participants to the meeting in the Senate building. He noted that such a gathering was significant, particularly with the recent tragedy of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh of Sweden, serving as a sobering reminder of the democratic values that continue to inspire parliamentarians. However, he noted the agenda of the United States government in two areas that are of concern to parliamentarians: the lack of interest in disarmament, and the overall unilateral approach on issues such as the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, and the Rome Statute. The Administration has squandered the opportunity to become engaged in forging an international coalition against terrorism. The nation was led into a war with a nation that posed no threat to this country or any of its allies, and has set a bad precedent. A path of international cooperation in addressing transnational problems must be taken, one that PGA has forged for a quarter century.

H.E. Mr. Olafur R. Grimsson, President of Iceland and former President of PGA, spoke of PGA's role through the years in changing the rules of political discourse.



Rep. Donald Payne (United States); Rep. Dennis Kucinich (United States)



Sen. Doug Roche (Canada)

Nuclear proliferation, hunger, poverty, development, and the advancement of United Nations (UN) reform were all on the organization's ambitious agenda. PGA members demonstrated the effectiveness of one-on-one dialogue between parliamentarians in effecting change. PGA brought a democratic spirit to the United Nations and demonstrated political creativity in strengthening international cooperation.

The first panel on disarmament was chaired by Mr. Hideki Wakabayashi, MP (Japan), who introduced the first speaker, H.E. Mr. Pierre Schori, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations and Chair, PGA United Nations Committee.

Ambassador Schori, a longtime supporter of the organization, noted that the government of Sweden has been one of the most active countries on the issue of disarmament. However, with rogue states becoming terrorist states, the issue of disarmament continues to remain relevant and critical to the international community. Foreign Minister Anna Lindh, who the world community lost the week before the forum, was active in developing a European strategy for nuclear weapons. The UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) which was headed by Dr. Hans Blix, should be supported by the UN Security Council as enforcement remains weak.

In August 1983, a PGA delegation met with President Olaf Palme of Sweden to declare the support of its members for a disarmament initiative. This led to the creation of the PGA Six-Nation Initiative. The lesson from PGA's efforts was: if the political will and courage are there, much can be achieved even in a world dominated by super powers. Nothing can represent civil society better than democratically elected MPs.

Ms. Thandi Modise, MP (South Africa) spoke of South Africa's voluntary disarmament. Reform of defense policies publicly began in 1968 up until 1984 when the government began producing armaments under a veil of secrecy. Although citizens did not support this growth in armaments, due to the political unrest of the time, the government began to arm itself to appease the United States. Thankfully, due to its lack of sustainability and public pressures, a progressive disarmament process

occurred by 1981 with international observers in attendance. Similarly, any Iraqi weapons could be dismantled without any bloodshed.

Dr. Margaret Alva, MP (India), raised the point that the atrocities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki could still occur today, as arms and fear feed on each other. Disarmament is the first step in creating a peaceful coexistence. The propaganda of war must be stopped, as wisdom lies in preventing the accumulation of problems that will destroy tomorrow. Ancient Indian tradition promotes overcoming differences with tolerance. Mahatma Gandhi's message of peace was for the entire world. He inspired hundreds of thousands to be humble in the face of arrogance. Gandhi called for specific initiatives on complete disarmament, banning all tests, prohibiting new weapons development, reducing levels of conventional arms, as the "battle for peace" must be brought about by the people of the world; the ultimate power to bring change rests with the people. Dr. Alva called on PGA to continue to support implementation. As a recipient of the Indira Gandhi prize in 1987, PGA must be congratulated for looking ahead. She emphasized that MPs need to work together before it is too late.

Mr. Roland Wiederkehr, MP (Switzerland) raised how PGA was the driving force behind the Chemical Weapons Convention by raising the side effects of their production, which produce long-term effects on the environment and public health. Governments must get rid of nuclear energy plants. There is no UN agency for renewable energy. If people are empowered to produce their own energy, this is democratic energy. With PGA members representing all regions of the world, PGA should develop a program for renewable international energy.

Rep. Loretta Ann P. Rosales (The Philippines) chaired the panel on the rule of law, presenting the first speaker, H.E. Ms. Carla Del Ponte, Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and former Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

Hon. Del Ponte noted that there has been increased interest in the last few years in war crimes prosecution and developing



Ms. Elsa Papademetriou, MP (Greece); Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi, Secretary-General, PGA; Sen. Tom Harkin (United States)



Dip. Adolfo Taylhardat (Venezuela); Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (United States)



H.E. Mr. Olafur Grimsson, President of Iceland; Rep. James Leach (United States)



H.E. Ms. Carla Del Ponte, Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia



H.E. Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, former President of Trinidad and Tobago



Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada), Convenor, International Law and Human Rights Programme; Rep. Donna M. Christensen (United States)



Dep. Mollé Mollé (Côte d'Ivoire); Hon. Ross Robertson, MP (New Zealand), Deputy Speaker of Parliament

international mechanisms with moral authority. These prosecutions cannot be left to states, as much as they insist on their sovereign right to prosecute. Parliamentarians must assist in holding states accountable in meeting their obligations. Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, (Canada), Convenor of PGA's International Law and Human Rights Programme, added that the rule of law is the backbone of justice, where democracy can flourish. PGA members have put a program of action into place through a joint declaration at the recent New York meeting on the Consultative Assembly. The ICC will become a reality for all citizens and not just for 92 States.

Sen. Carlos García Orjuela (Colombia) raised the point that as the President of the Senate, he was responsible for amending the constitution for Colombia to accede to the Rome Statute. PGA and the international community must make the ICC effective. H.E. Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, former President of Trinidad and Tobago, introduced the UN resolution on the ICC and had been nominated for the Peace Prize for his efforts. He reminded the audience of their tremendous responsibility as parliamentarians to work for humanity. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (United States) noted that institutions such as the UN must be protected, but parliamentarians equally must be committed to oversight.

The following panels on population, AIDS and the environment as well as peacemaking and nation-building were held in the Capitol Building. Ms. Elissavet Papademetriou, MP (Greece) Deputy Convenor, Sustainable Development and Population Programme, introduced Mr. K.B. Krishnamurthy, MP (India) speaking

on behalf of Mr. Murli Deora, MP (India) on the four million citizens of India infected with HIV/AIDS. Social disparities, migrations, and poor medical treatment all contribute to stigmatism of the infected in villages, who suffer isolation. Prevention is needed through training and education with the support of the international community.

Dr. Amin Mobarak, MP (Egypt), spoke on the significance of water and energy management, especially in maximizing the efficient usage of energy through renewable energy technologies. Wars are fought over water and concrete plans of action are required to prevent political instability over natural resources.

Rep. Donna M. Christensen, (United States) spoke of the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS. Thirty million people are living with HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. The prevalence in the Caribbean is 2.2%, almost as high as sub-Saharan Africa. One in every 15 people is infected in the Caribbean. Poverty is one of contributing factors to the spread of HIV/AIDS. Rep. Christensen emphasized that while some governments are better than others at prevention and education, we must help those governments that are not tackling these problems associated with HIV/AIDS.

Sen. Longin Pastusiak (Poland), Deputy Convenor, Peace and Democracy Programme, introduced Rep. Donald Payne (United States), who stressed that parliamentarians from around the world do not have enough influence in their own countries. Yet it is their responsibility to represent their populations. Although MPs have fewer resources than the executive, it is incumbent on MPs to represent the views of their constituents. Rep. Payne urged

parliamentarians from all 70 countries to speak up and speak out.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich, (United States), Deputy Convenor, Sustainable Development and Population Programme, expressed his disappointment of the actions taken by his government and urged MPs to work for the principles of the UN. Rep. Kucinich introduced legislation to create a cabinet level department of peace to be used in our society against violence towards women and children. He traveled the world to send the message that U.S. citizens want peace and solidarity, to rid the world of chemical and nuclear weapons, to support the small arms treaty. He raised the necessity of the U.S. signing and ratifying the ICC, as well as the importance of supporting water management, economy, and trade in creating a world where we can celebrate unity and make the choice between war and peace.

The luncheon at the Capitol Hill Club was hosted by Rep. Jim Leach (United States). H.E. Mr. Grimsson met with US members of Congress, Rep. Gary Ackerman and Rep. Jim Kolbe.

The Eighth Annual Defender of Democracy Awards Dinner took place in the evening at the James Madison Memorial Building, the Library of Congress. This year's recipients were H.E. Mr. George Papandreou, Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs and Dr. Chee Soon Juan, Secretary-General of the Singapore Democratic Party.

The Peer-to-Peer Dialogue among African and United States Legislators took place September 17, 2003 as a side event to the Tribute. Parliamentarians from Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ghana, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe and from the Parliament of the Economic Community

of West African States (ECOWAS) met and exchanged views with the US members of Congress Rep. Payne, Rep. Gregory Meeks, Rep. Betty McCollum, and Rep. Barney Frank on the crisis in Africa.*



Sen. Carlos García Orjuela (Colombia),
President of the Senate



Dep. Mamadou Lamine Thiam (Senegal); Sen.
Longin Pastusiak (Poland), President of the Senate;
Dip. Shafik Jorge Handal (El Salvador)



Ms. Thandi Modise, MP (South Africa)



Dr. Amin Mobarak, MP (Egypt)

EIGHTH ANNUAL DEFENDER OF DEMOCRACY AWARDS DINNER

PGA celebrated its Eighth Annual Defender of Democracy Awards on September 16th, 2003 at the James Madison Memorial Building, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. This year's recipients were H.E. Mr. George Papandreou, Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Chee Soon Juan, Secretary-General of the Singapore Democratic Party.

Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana) and PGA President, introduced the first awardee, Hon. Papandreou who was selected to receive the award for his lifelong work and commitment to peace and democracy. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Greece, Hon. Papandreou promoted a foreign policy based on the respect of human rights and a peaceful approach to conflict resolution. In his acceptance speech, Hon. Papandreou explained that "democratic leadership also means opening the opportunity for one's citizens to express themselves and to shape policies, where diplomacy should go beyond the closed doors of negotiations."

As Vice-Chair of the Olympic Truce Foundation, Hon. Papandreou worked to promote the message of world peace through the movement of the Olympic Truce initiative. This movement seeks to revive the Ancient Greek Olympic tradition where hostilities between states end during the Olympic Games. "So in fact," the Minister said, "the Olympic Games, when we revived them in Athens some 100 years ago, were not simply a sporting game. They were a peace project." Hon. Papandreou successfully worked to revive the Olympic Truce starting in 2004. "If we can have peace for 14 days, maybe we can have peace forever," he said. He invited PGA to join the Olympic Games celebrations in Athens in 2004.

Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada), Convenor of PGA's International Law and Human Rights Programme, introduced

the second awardee, Dr. Chee Soon Juan, Secretary-General of the Singapore Democratic Party. Dr. Chee was selected to receive the award for his commitment to the promotion of democratic principles.

He has worked to achieve fair labor conditions, good governance and the acceptance of diversity of opinions. "I am humbled by the fact that you have decided that I should be the recipient of this year's Defender of Democracy," said Dr. Chee. As the current director of The Open Singapore Centre, Dr. Chee helps promote open civic participation and accountability in government. "It is my hope and goal to turn Singapore into the hub of democracy in Southwest Asia, if not Asia," said Dr. Chee.

Since 2001, Dr. Chee has chaired the 18-nation Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia and has been a member of the International Board of Directors at the Forum of Democratic Leaders in the Asia-Pacific. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats.*



H.E. Mr. George Papandreou, Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs; Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana), President of PGA



Dr. Chee Soon Juan, Secretary-General, Singapore Democratic Party; Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada), Convenor of PGA's International Law and Human Rights Programme

PEACE AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMME

PGA's Task Force on Peace and Democracy continued its work in Africa with a focus on West Africa and Zimbabwe.

In collaboration with International IDEA, PGA sent an exploratory mission to Sierra Leone on February 24-28, 2003 to meet with members of the Parliament. The mission, which included Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana) Second Deputy Speaker and PGA President, held discussions with MPs, high level officials of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), representatives of civil society, the World Bank and international organizations. The discussions focused on the need for consensus building and negotiation, strengthening of parliamentary committees, government-opposition relations and constituency relations.

As part of the mission, PGA participated in the Symposium on Local Democracy and Governance in Sierra Leone, held on February 26, 2003 in Freetown. The workshop was organized by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the local NGO Campaign for Good Governance (CGG).

As the progressive breakdown of effective local representation and participation in governance was one of the causes of the conflict in Sierra Leone, the workshop focused on developing an appropriate system of decentralization to fight corruption. One

of the urgent post-conflict rebuilding issues is the restoration of effective representation in local governance and the restoration of the Paramount Chiefs. The progress of the Task Force on Local Government and Decentralization (which sets rules and mechanisms for the elections) and the role of the parliament in passing required legislation on municipal elections were also raised.

Mr. Alan Doss, United Nations Assistant Special Representative of the Secretary General and UNDP Resident Representative, opened the meeting. The Minister of Parliamentary and Political Affairs presented the government's plan of action for decentralization and presentations were made by representatives of women's and youth groups. Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana), President, PGA, also presented at the workshop where he shared Ghana's experience on local governance and decentralization. Participants agreed that the international community can assist through enhancing the capacity of civil society, local government and further supporting decentralization.

The PGA delegation met with Hon. Edmond Cowan, Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Ernest Koroma, Minority Leader, and other main party and opposition MPs. The needs of the Parliament and areas for PGA assistance were addressed. Parliament, due to a lack of necessary resources, does not have the power to exercise its legislative role vis-à-

Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Among African and US Legislators, Washington, D.C. (September 2003): Sen. Sanusi Daggash (Nigeria); Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, MP (Sierra Leone)



Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Among African and US Legislators, Washington, D.C. (September 2003): Mr. Jeppe Kofod, MP (Denmark); Mr. Adolf Mwesige, MP (Uganda)



Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Among African and US Legislators, Washington, D.C. (September 2003): Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi, Secretary-General, PGA; Dr. Irwin Cotler, MP (Canada), Minister of Justice



Convenor

Dep. Mamadou Lamine Thiam (Senegal)

Deputy Convenors

Ms. Elissavet Papademetriou, MP (Greece)
Sen. Longin Pastusiak (Poland)

Programme Advisors:

Amb. Kristina Svensson, *Ambassador of Sweden to Zimbabwe*

Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, *Executive Secretary, ECOWAS*

Amb. Olara Otunnu, *Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict*

Amb. Ould Abdallah, *Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa*

Mr. David Malone, *President, International Peace Academy*

Amb. Aldo Ajello, *Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, European Union*

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Ms. Lori Mann, *Consultant*

Mr. Klas Sandstrom, *Consultant*

Ms. Lisa von Trapp, *Consultant*



Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Among African and US Legislators, Washington, D.C.(September 2003): Rep. Gregory Meeks (United States); Rep. Betty McCollum (United States); Rep. Barney Frank (United States)



PGA delegation in the Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire with the PDCI parliamentary group (May 2003)



Consultative Mission to Zimbabwe (May 2003): Chief Joseph N. Bidi, MP (Zimbabwe); Dip. Carlos Alberto Flores (Mexico); Ms. Hilda Mafudze, MP (Zimbabwe); Mr. Alban Bagbin, MP (Ghana); Ms. Nebiyat Woldemichael, PGA Programme Officer; Ms. Thandi Modise, MP (South Africa); Mr. Chico Francisco, MP (Mozambique)



vis the executive. Legislators, civil society leaders and international actors expressed concern that Sierra Leone is sliding into a one party state system. The PGA delegation reiterated the need for assistance to the parliament in strengthening committee structures and scrutinizing bills, and power sharing in government-opposition relations.

As part of its long term commitment to Côte d'Ivoire and the region, PGA sent a Consultative Mission to Abidjan from May 8-11, 2003 at the invitation of the PGA National Group. The delegation was led by Dep. Mamadou Lamine Thiam (Senegal), and included Dep. Albert Sinotoko (Benin), Mr. Yves Rocheleau, MP (Canada), Mr. Albert Koenders, MP (The Netherlands), Ms. Fatimé Dam, PGA Executive Officer and Mr. Gilbert Martin, PGA Consultant. The delegation addressed, with members of the Ivorian Parliament, the need for consensus building among the different parties in support of the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Peace Accords which were signed on January 24, 2003.

While most parliamentarians agree that the Accords are the key to peace and reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire, members of the National Assembly feel marginalized and distanced from the peace process. Representatives of the National Assembly were not invited to the negotiations and the National Assembly does not have a representative in the Follow-up Committee charged with monitoring the Accords implementation. During the negotiations at Marcoussis, the political parties represented agreed to ensure that their representatives in Parliament would support the programme of work laid out in the Accord and its annex. The National Assembly also faces the challenge of non-representation of the three rebel groups and the Rassemblement des Republicains (RDR), which boycotted the parliamentary elections, within parliament.

The PGA Delegation met with the National Assembly leadership; members of the PGA National Group and various party bureaus in the National Assembly; the

Presidents of the various parliamentary commissions; representatives of the major political parties including Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI), Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI), Rassemblement des Republicains (RDR), leadership of Forces Nouvelle (a coalition of the 3 rebel groups); representatives of the diplomatic community; the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General Professor Albert Tevoedjre and Mr. El-Mostafa Benlamlah, UNDP Resident Representative; and the ECOWAS and French peacekeeping forces. At the time of the mission, the National Assembly had not yet begun to debate the Linas-Marcoussis Accords, though they had invited the Prime Minister to present his programme for implementation. Subsequently, the Prime Minister did present a draft programme for debate in the Parliament.

While the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra Accords are positive steps forward, inter-party rivalries continue to make implementation difficult. MPs noted that the current tense environment could lead to a paralysis of the political class from continued inter-party feuding, leading to a surprise coup d'etat, the dissolution of the Assembly and replacement of the Head of State.

PGA welcomed the contributions of the United States, France and Great Britain to the ECOWAS/MIECI force and the recent pledges of the Netherlands and Belgium. The delegation concluded their visit by holding a press conference in the National Assembly expressing strong support for the rapid and timely consideration of the Marcoussis Accords. PGA encouraged all political actors to move forward on this agenda in a spirit of compromise and reconciliation.

On May 5-8, 2003, PGA conducted a Consultative Mission to the Parliament of Zimbabwe in Harare. The mission was composed of Mr. Alban Bagbin, MP, Minority Leader (Ghana) and head of the delegation, Mr. Chico Francisco, MP (Mozambique), Ms. Thandi Ruth Modise, MP (South Africa), Mr. Lars

Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Among African and US Legislators, Washington, D.C. (September 2003): Mr. Alban Bagbin, MP (Ghana); Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana), President, PGA; Rep. Donald Payne (United States)



left: PGA mission to Côte d'Ivoire with Prof. Albert Tevoedjre, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (May 2003)

right: Consultative Mission to Sierra Leone (February 2003): Hon. Ms. Elizabeth Lavalie, Deputy Speaker of the Sierra Leone Parliament (right) with Sierra Leone MPs

Rise, MP (Norway), Dip. Carlos Alberto Flores Gutierrez (Mexico), Ms. Wema Isa (PGA legal expert) and Ms. Nebiyat Woldemichael, PGA Program Officer. The mission held discussions with members of the Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Legal Affairs as well as informal meetings with other relevant committees and government officials. Discussions focused on the promotion of the rule of law, greater cooperation with international institutions and Zimbabwe's ratification of the Rome Statute for the ICC. The delegation also raised the viability of increased dialogue between governing and opposition MPs.

PGA had begun its initial work with the parliament of Zimbabwe by inviting a multi-party delegation of Zimbabwean MPs to PGA's 24th Annual Forum held in Ottawa, Canada in November 2002. PGA's Executive Committee, at their November meeting, agreed to send a PGA delegation to Zimbabwe on the basis of briefings provided by Dr. Edison Zvobgo, MP (ZANU-PF party and Chair of the Standing Committee on Parliament Legal Affairs) and Mr. David Coltart, MP (MDC party) and after consultations with former PGA member and longstanding PGA Program Advisor, H.E. Ms. Kristina Svensson, Ambassador of Sweden to Zimbabwe.

The delegation began its mission in Harare with a briefing by Amb. Svensson on the current political situation in Zimbabwe. Delegation members were then updated on the status of Zimbabwe's ratification of the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court (ICC) by Deputy Attorney General Mr. Bharat Patel. It was noted that Zimbabwe was one of the first countries to sign the Rome Statute in 1998 but has yet to ratify.

PGA met with Committees on Public Accounts, Defense and Home Affairs, Local Government, Public Works and National Housing, and Foreign Relations and International Trade. Zimbabwean MPs expressed the need for interaction between parliamentarians from different countries and their desire for increased dialogue with other MPs who can offer advice and share experiences on common issues. They noted that parliamentarians within Zimbabwe have a limited knowledge of the ICC. The impact of the ICC on national legislation, the immunity of Heads of States, the scope of crimes under the ICC, and the different mechanisms available for national reconciliation were also discussed at length.

The PGA delegation also met with Hon. Emmerson D. Mnangagwa, Speaker of the Parliament, Hon. Edna Madzongwe,

Deputy Speaker and the clerk of Parliament. The Speaker discussed the land distribution exercises undertaken in recent years and the overall political situation in the country, adding that Zimbabwe is trying to "resolve the political crisis by bridging the differences between the majority and minority parties."

Hon. Patrick A. Chinamasa, House Leader and Minister of Justice, raised that current pressing events affecting the country have limited their work on the ICC but they are committed to ratification. In a meeting with the Vice President of Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), Mr. Gibson Sibanda spoke on "the frustrations people are facing in Zimbabwe and the polarization of political parties, which makes it difficult to deliver to the people what they want and need thus defeating the whole political process."

The mission was well received and was able to establish positive relationships with both governing and opposition parties within the Parliament. The delegation urged Zimbabwean MPs to go beyond party politics and work for their constituencies. All interlocutors in parliament and in government urged PGA to return to Zimbabwe to conduct a seminar that will target the full House as well as bring a delegation of Zimbabwean

right: PGA delegation press conference in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (May 2003): Mr. Albert Koenders, MP (The Netherlands); Dep. Mamadou Lamine Thiam (Senegal); Dep. Yves Rocheleau (Canada); Dep. Albert Sinatoko (Benin)



left: Consultative Mission to Côte d'Ivoire with Resident Coordinator El-Mostafa Benlamlih and Governance Counsellor Siaka Coulibaly (May 2003)



Consultative Mission to Zimbabwe (May 2003): Reception hosted for the PGA Mission by the Speaker of the Parliament of Zimbabwe, Hon. Emmerson D. Mnangagwa

Pictured: Dr. Eddison Zvobgo, MP (Zimbabwe); Hon. Patrick A. Chinamasa, House Majority Leader; Mr. Chipanga (ZANU-PF) and PGA delegation: Ms. Thandi Modise, PGA MP (South Africa), Mr. Alberto Carlos Flores, PGA MP (Mexico)



Consultative Mission to Sierra Leone (February 2003): PGA meeting with Hon. Edmond K. Cowan, Speaker of Parliament (right) and opposition leaders

parliamentarians to visit their counterparts in the United States Congress and other parliaments for capacity building.

In light of South Africa's key role as mediator in Zimbabwe's political crisis, PGA board member Ms. Thandi Modise, MP (South Africa), Chair of the Defense Committee and a member of the May 2003 PGA Mission to Zimbabwe, travelled to Harare, Zimbabwe on November 17-18, 2003 to meet with Zimbabwean counterparts and Amb. Svensson. They discussed how PGA can assist in reviving the stalled political negotiations between the governing party ZANU-PF and opposition party MDC. Using an unofficial parallel approach, the discussions sought to identify common positions and interests to be used as confidence building measures towards reopening dialogue.

PGA brought multiparty delegations of parliamentarians from Côte d'Ivoire and Zimbabwe to its 25th Anniversary Tribute held on September 16, 2003 in the United States Congress, Washington, D.C. The delegation from Côte d'Ivoire briefed PGA's Executive Board, International Council and members of the US Congress on the conflict and the role of parliament. The nine-member delegation from Zimbabwe also discussed the current situation and strategies to support its parliament. In addition, Dr. Alban Bagbin, MP (Ghana), Ms. Thandi Modise, MP (South Africa) and Mr. Jeppe Kofod, MP (Denmark) met with the delegation in a closed door meeting to share examples of other countries that dealt with similar political crisis and advise on strategies for a peaceful resolution.

A briefing was organized by PGA on Peer-to-Peer Dialogue among African and United States Legislators: Parliamentary Peacemaking in the cases of Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Zimbabwe, hosted by PGA

member Rep. Donald Payne (United States) on September 17, 2003 in the US Congress, Washington, DC. Parliamentarians from Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ghana, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe and from the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met and exchanged views with US members of Congress Rep. Donald Payne, Rep. Gregory Meeks, Rep. Betty McCollum, and Rep. Barney Frank on the crisis in Africa. Other participants included special guest Mr. Moses Katjuongua (Namibia), former MP and former PGA International President, and observers former MP Mr. Ahmed Farrah (Kenya) and a representative of the African-American Institute.

The African legislators briefed their US counterparts on the conflicts in their regions. They discussed how Parliaments can contribute to the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Peace Accords in Côte d'Ivoire and in reviving stalled negotiations in Zimbabwe. Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, (Ghana) noted that parliamentarians and their colleagues can continue to be effective in bringing peace, stability and development to West Africa. The US members committed to working more closely with PGA members in their peacemaking efforts.

Water Management Dialogues

Since 2001, PGA has conducted a series of roundtable discussions between Greek and Turkish parliamentarians to address the link between regional conflict management and environmental policy. As part of the series, an informal meeting between Ms. Elissavet Papademetriou, MP (Greece) and Mr. Reha Denemec, MP (Turkey) to update on the progress of work in the series took place on September 13, 2003, as a side meeting to the PGA Second Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International

Criminal Court and the Rule of Law, held at UN Headquarters in New York. Both parliamentarians agreed to expand the involvement of parliamentary colleagues in the work, particularly in the discussions to be held at the upcoming Mediterranean Parliamentary Seminar on Clean Air and Clean Water which will be held in the Parliament of Greece in the fall of 2004.*

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

The year 2003 marked important successes for PGA's International Law and Human Rights Programme. PGA members exercised leadership to promote the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the local, national, and international levels, both as a means to end impunity as well as to reinforce the rule of law. The contributions of PGA members led to several new ratifications of the Rome Statute, such as in the cases of Georgia and Albania, and to the consolidation of an operational Court in The Hague, the Netherlands. However, the fight against impunity for the most egregious international crimes is far from over. For the purposes of channeling sustained political commitment to this endeavor, PGA convened the second session of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law, which took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York on September 12-13, 2003. Many initiatives on ratification, domestic implementation and protection of the integrity of the ICC have been undertaken in preparation and as follow-up to the Consultative Assembly.

The PGA ICC campaign, in its fourth year of support from the European Commission, continued to conduct country-specific activities. Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada) completed her four-year term as Convenor of the programme, highlighted by her fundamental role as moderator of the discussions on the final documents at both the Moscow Conference at the II Consultative Assembly.

The goals of the PGA ICC campaign are:

- Through PGA, legislators from countries that have not joined the ICC can promote national ratification in their Parliaments while discussing with peers the merits of joining the Court. This fosters awareness and political support for the international justice system and the rule of law.

- On the other hand, if a country has already ratified but not yet implemented the Statute in the domestic legal order, legislative efforts can be undertaken to promote an effective ICC-related legislation to ensure full cooperation with the ICC and to give effect to the principle of complementarity in the justice system.

- Additionally, considering the repeated attacks against the Court territorial jurisdiction, all legislators have been given the tools to launch initiatives to protect the integrity of the ICC. Such initiatives, with the leadership of PGA Members, led to unexpected and tangible results.

On February 11-12, 2003, PGA organized the Regional Parliamentary Conference for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the Russian State Duma in Moscow. Participants came from CIS countries such as Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine, as well as from the PGA International Law network, including MPs from Canada, Italy, The Netherlands and Poland. A delegation of three MPs from Turkey also attended the Conference.

While all participating MPs committed to the prompt ratification of the Rome Statute – as of today, Tajikistan is the only CIS country that has ratified the Rome Statute – the Conference proved to be a fundamental stimulus for Russia to move towards the implementation of the Statute in the national legal order. In fact, both PGA member Mr. Mikhail Grishankov, MP (Russian Federation) and Dr. Roman Kolodkin, Legal Advisor to the Russian Foreign Ministry, announced in the opening session that President Vladimir Putin transmitted to Parliament legislation that implements the ICC Statute into national laws. This announcement reinforced the significance of PGA's engagement in the CIS region and underscored the impact of

Convenor

Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada)

Deputy Convenors

Sen. Anthony Johnson (Jamaica)

Sen. Marcelo Lopez Arias (Argentina)

Programme Advisors

Prof. M. Cherif Bassiouni, *President, International Human Rights Law Institute, DePaul University; President, International Association of Criminal Law, Paris*

Mr. Richard Dicker, *Legal Counsel, Human Rights Watch*

Mr. Christopher Hall, *Legal Advisor, Amnesty International*

H.E. Mr. Philippe Kirsch, *President, International Criminal Court*

Mr. William R. Pace, *Convenor, Coalition for an International Criminal Court*

Programme Staff

Dr. David Donat-Cattin, *Legal Advisor*

Mr. Juan Kim, *Programme Officer*

Ms. Samar Al-Bulushi, *Programme Associate (as of July 2003)*

Ms. Tanya Diaz, *Consultant*

the ICC on the legislation of States not yet parties to the Statute.

The Conference also facilitated bipartisan understanding between Dr. Irakly Govava, MP (Georgia) Secretary General of the ruling party, and Mr. Zakaria Kutsnashvili, MP (Georgia) Vice-President of the Legal Affairs Committee and member of the opposition, that led to an intense campaign to secure Georgia's ratification and full implementation of the ICC Statute before the Presidential elections scheduled for 2004. The relevant legislation passed in June/July and Georgia became the 92nd State Party to the Rome Statute on September 5, 2003.

The Moscow Conference programme was divided into three sessions covering the following items: the impact of the ICC on international relations; the potential impact of the ICC on the promotion of human rights and the fight against terrorism; and the impact of the ICC on national legal orders and the necessity to enact implementing legislation. Representatives of international organisations such as the European Union and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), NGOs including Amnesty International and the Coalition for the ICC (CICC), and governmental bodies were invited to provide expertise and discuss with parliamentarians. Academic experts, led by representatives of the Russian Academy of Sciences, briefed parliamentarians on the most important issues relating to international criminal jurisdiction.

Following the deliberations of the Conference drafting committee, an open and frank discussion led to the adoption of the "Moscow Declaration on Ratification and Implementation of the Rome Statute of the ICC in the CIS."

PGA held its second Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law at United Nations Headquarters in New York on September 12-13, 2003. Approximately 140 politicians from 68 countries interacted with experts from the ICC, NGOs, governments and the academia. Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, Prosecutor for the ICC, delivered an inspiring key-note address to the Assembly calling for parliamentary cooperation and support for the Court's effective operation.

In addition to the ongoing themes of ratification, implementation, and protecting the integrity of the Rome Statute, legislators debated the possibility of creating a parliamentary assembly for the ICC. Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada) chaired the panel on this topic, while Mr. Alban Bagbin, MP (Ghana), leader of the opposition and Prof. Longin Pastusiak, (Poland) President of the Senate, began the debate by stressing the important role of parliamentary institutions in supporting the ICC. Though opinions varied regarding the need and scope of this institutional development, consensus was found on the continuation of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC on an informal basis at the present time.

Experts were invited to address various issues of concern and to stimulate dialogue among parliamentarians from all regions of the world. Mr. Lincoln P. Bloomfield Jr., Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs at the United States Department of State, addressed the assembly on the US position towards the ICC. Legislators engaged in a spirited dialogue with Mr. Bloomfield on the contentious issue of bilateral agreements that seek to exempt US nationals from the trials before the Court. This was the first time that a US official agreed to discuss the ICC in an open pro-ICC forum since the decision of the current Administration to withdraw signature from the Statute. The input provided by Mr. Bloomfield and other experts was much appreciated by the participating parliamentarians who seized the occasion to ask numerous questions. Parliamentarians also took an active part in the proceedings by presenting their countries' position on the issues in the agenda. For example, PGA Members Dr. Adrian Severin, MP (Romania) and Dip. Felipe Micheline (Uruguay), affirmed that their unequivocal support for the principle of equality before the law has had a concrete impact on their countries' position on the bilateral agreements. In Romania, the first country to sign a bilateral agreement, government statements indicate that the Executive will not submit the agreement for ratification to Parliament because the parliamentary leadership anticipated its rejection. A similar scenario may soon materialize in Uruguay, and has already developed in neighboring Paraguay.



II Session of the Consultative Assembly, New York (September 2003): Mr. Adrian Severin, MP (Romania); Mr. Tony Worthington, MP (United Kingdom), Convenor, Sustainable Development and Population Programme; Hon. Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Assistant Secretary, US Department of State



II Session of the Consultative Assembly, New York (September 2003): H.E. Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, Prosecutor for the ICC



Regional Parliamentary Conference for the CIS, Moscow, Russian Federation (February 2003): Mr. Khamit Amerguzhin, MP (Kazakhstan); Mr. Mikhail Grishankov, MP (Russian Federation)

II Session of the Consultative Assembly, New York (September 2003): Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana), President, PGA; H.E. Mr. Pierre Schori, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN; Chair, PGA UN Committee



right: II Session of the Consultative Assembly, New York (September 2003): Mr. Robert Miller, Parliamentary Centre, Ottawa, Canada; Sen. Longin Pastusiak (Poland); Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada), Convenor, International Law and Human Rights Programme



Participants found the Assembly's materials and debates of significant interest and relevance for their day-to-day work as policy-makers. For some who had never participated in a PGA event or were not entirely familiar with issues related to ICC ratification and implementation, the Assembly was particularly enlightening and enabled them to contribute to the Forum and its follow-up despite their previously limited awareness of the Court.

The overall objective of PGA's annual Consultative Assembly is to bridge the awareness gap between important issues in the global agenda, such as the effective functioning of the ICC, and how they are perceived at the national level by parliamentarians and their constituencies. The Consultative Assembly has served to enhance the global level of understanding and support for the ICC among parliamentarians from all regions of the world. Through advocacy and dissemination of information to MPs, this year's Consultative Assembly and the follow-up initiatives coordinated under PGA's International Law and Human Rights Programme aimed to contribute to the effective operations of the ICC. The development of the Court can greatly benefit from the ratification and appropriate implementation of the Rome Statute by countries representing legal systems around the world, as well as sustainable parliamentary support for the ICC. Given the particular position of PGA Members in the national decision-making process, the mobilization of these legislators has often made the difference in the process that led their countries to become Parties to the Rome Statute. The existing framework of the International Law and Human Rights Programme allows for a continued follow up to the ICC commitments made by each legislator during the Consultative Assembly's discussions. The Assembly will continue to include legislators from countries that are not yet parties to the ICC

Statute.

At PGA's 25th Anniversary Tribute in Washington, D.C., H.E. Mrs. Carla Del Ponte, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and former Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), called for the full cooperation of states in the arrest and surrender of indicted war criminals, and reminded MPs of their responsibility to enact legislation on international justice. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (United States) stressed the importance of the rule of law as a core foundation of democracy and protection of human rights.

Protecting the Integrity of the ICC

PGA members launched a global strategy to coordinate parliamentary efforts aimed at preventing the renewal of UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1422, adopted on July 12, 2002, which defers for 12 months (renewable) any ICC investigation or prosecution against individuals from Non-States Parties allegedly involved in the commission of crimes against humanity, war crimes or genocide in the course of a UN-peacekeeping or authorized operation. At the request of its members, PGA collected diverse legal opinions from experts that will be made available to all interested parliamentarians at their request.

On April 22, 2003, PGA held the Strategy Meeting: Protecting the Integrity of the International Criminal Court, at UN Headquarters in New York, in parallel to the resumed meeting of the ICC Assembly of States Parties in which Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo (Argentina) was unanimously elected first Prosecutor of the ICC.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss and devise strategies to implement the "Ottawa Plan of Action on the ICC,"

which was adopted in November 2002 by the first Consultative Assembly in Ottawa, Canada. The meeting focused on the theme of protecting the integrity of the Rome Statute, which entered into force on July 1, 2002 and was subsequently undermined by the negative actions of some states, which led to UNSC Resolution 1422 and the Bilateral Non-Surrender Agreements. International law scholars and experts have called Resolution 1422 and the bilateral agreements illegal as they violate the obligations of all States to ensure that people accused of the most serious crimes under international law are brought to justice.

The first roundtable discussions in the agenda dealt with UNSC Resolution 1422 and the Bilateral Non-Surrender Agreements. These discussions clarified the legal and political implications of these measures against the integrity of the Statute. The next two discussions addressed the importance of implementing pro-ICC action for PGA Members and other interested MPs, namely in the form of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law. In this context, the role of PGA's membership in universal ratification, implementing legislation and legislative support for the Court were also considered.

In an effort to contribute to the preservation of the letter and spirit of the Rome Statute of the ICC, the parliamentary network of PGA members from The Netherlands, Uruguay, Argentina, Switzerland, and other countries have presented parliamentary resolutions to review the bilateral non-surrender agreements in violation of the Rome Statute and have questioned their governments on the status of current negotiations. These actions were undertaken in the Lower and Upper Houses of the Parliament of Argentina, in the British House of

Commons and the European Parliament as well as in the parliaments of Uruguay, Peru, the Netherlands and Switzerland through the presentation of formal motions or questions. In New Zealand, Tanzania, Uganda and several other countries informal parliamentary initiatives led by PGA members have already taken place or are underway.*

INITIATIVES PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF THE ICC

Parliamentarians can bring a level of transparency and accountability to the negotiation process by ensuring that governments do not negotiate agreements behind closed doors.

For example:

1. PGA member Mr. Tony Worthington, MP (United Kingdom) initiated a debate on the ICC and American initiatives against the Court in the UK House of Commons in January 2003. Members of the House of Commons addressed questions regarding Britain's attitude towards the ICC to the Minister for Europe, Mr. Denis MacShane.

2. PGA member Sen. Sanusi Daggash (Nigeria) introduced a resolution mandating that the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Nigerian Senate investigates the nature of agreements between Nigeria and the United States or any other country over the jurisdiction and operations of the ICC. The resolution was introduced in October 2003 after Sen. Daggash's numerous attempts to obtain the release of public information on the Bilateral Non Surrender Agreement from both the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the President.

Regional Parliamentary Conference for the CIS, Moscow, Russian Federation (February 2003): Hon. Lubov Sliska, MP (Russian Federation), First Deputy Chair of the Russian State Duma; Hon. Mr. Valery Pavlovich Goregljad, MP (Russian Federation), First Deputy Chair of the Council of Federation; H.E. Mr. Dimitrios Paraskevopoulos, Ambassador of Greece to the Russian Federation



II Session of the Consultative Assembly, New York (September 2003): Sen. Alain Destexhe (Belgium)



Regional Parliamentary Conference for the CIS, Moscow, Russian Federation (February 2003): Mr. Faizullo Amiraliev, MP (Tajikistan); Mr. Alexander Karpasov, MP (Kyrgystan); Mr. Mikhail Zabelin, MP (Azerbaijan)



THE COURT'S OFFICIALS - SPOTLIGHT ON THE PROSECUTOR OF THE ICC



Parliamentary Conference for the CIS, Moscow, Russian Federation (February 2003): Mr. Mikhail Sidorov, MP (Republic of Moldova); Mr. Victor Mysiaka, MP (Ukraine)



Strategy Meeting on the ICC, New York (April 2003): Dip. Tarcisio Navarrete (Mexico); Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi, Secretary-General, PGA; Dep. Mamadou Lamine Thiam (Senegal); Mr. Christopher Hall, Legal Advisor, International Justice Programme, Amnesty International



In February 2003, from a pool of 54 candidates, the ICC Assembly of States Parties elected the first 18 judges of the Court. The judges fulfill the highest qualifications and represent gender balance, geographic representation and variety in legal traditions. The 18 judges are: President Mr. Philippe Kirsch (Canada), Vice President Ms. Akua Kuenyehia (Ghana), Vice President Ms. Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica), Mr. René Blattmann (Bolivia), Ms. Maureen Harding Clark (Ireland), Ms. Fatoumata Dembele Diarra (Mali), Mr. Adrian Fulford (United Kingdom), Mr. Karl T. Hudson-Phillips (Trinidad and Tobago), Mr. Claude Jorda (France), Mr. Hans-Peter Kaul (Germany), Mr. Erkki Kourula (Finland), Mr. Gheorghios M. Piki (Cyprus), Ms. Navanethem Pillay (South Africa), Mr. Mauro Politi (Italy), Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade (Samoa), Mr. Sang-hyun Song (Republic of Korea), Ms. Sylvia H. de Figueiredo Steiner (Brazil), and Ms. Anita Usacka (Latvia).

Mr. Bruno Cathala (France) was elected ICC Registrar in June 2003. As the principal administrative officer of the ICC, the Registrar is responsible for the non-judicial aspects of the Court that do not fall under the responsibilities of the Office of the Prosecutor. The election of the Registrar completed the selection of the Court's highest officials, thereby making the ICC fully operational.

Following a rigorous international search, Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo (Argentina) was elected Prosecutor of the ICC in April 2003. The election of Mr. Moreno Ocampo was met with wide acclaim. An eminent prosecutor, lawyer and public servant in Argentina, Mr. Moreno Ocampo's experience includes investigating crimes of his country's military junta and violations

of the laws of war during the Malvinas-Falkans conflict. Since assuming his post, the Prosecutor has assembled a team of key advisors and has begun to assess more than 400 situations referred to his office. In a communiqué of July 16, 2003, the Office of the Prosecutor announced that it was following the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo with particular interest.

For more information about the officials of the ICC, visit www.icc-cpi.int.*

Strategy Meeting on the ICC, New York (April 2003): Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada), Convenor, International Law and Human Rights Programme; Amb. Philippe Kirsch, President of the ICC

PGA MEMBERSHIP / ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP PARLIAMENTS

The Americas

Caribbean

Barbados
Dominican Republic*
Haiti**
Jamaica
Trinidad and Tobago

Central America

Costa Rica
El Salvador
Guatemala
Mexico
Panama

Northern America

Canada*
United States

Europe

East/Central Europe, CIS and Russian Federation

Albania*
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Estonia
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Georgia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovenia
Turkey
Ukraine

North Africa and the Middle East

Egypt*
Israel
Jordan
Morocco
Tunisia

Regional Parliaments

European Parliament*
ECOWAS Parliament

South America

Argentina*
Bolivia
Brazil*
Chile*
Colombia
Paraguay
Peru
Suriname
Uruguay
Venezuela

South Pacific

Australia
New Zealand*
Western Samoa

Southeast/South Asia and Pacific

Bangladesh
Cambodia
India*
Indonesia
Japan*
Malaysia
Maldives
Pakistan
Philippines*
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Thailand

Sub-Saharan Africa

Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso*
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Chad
Côte d'Ivoire*
Ethiopia
Ghana*
Guinea
Kenya

Mali*

Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria*
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

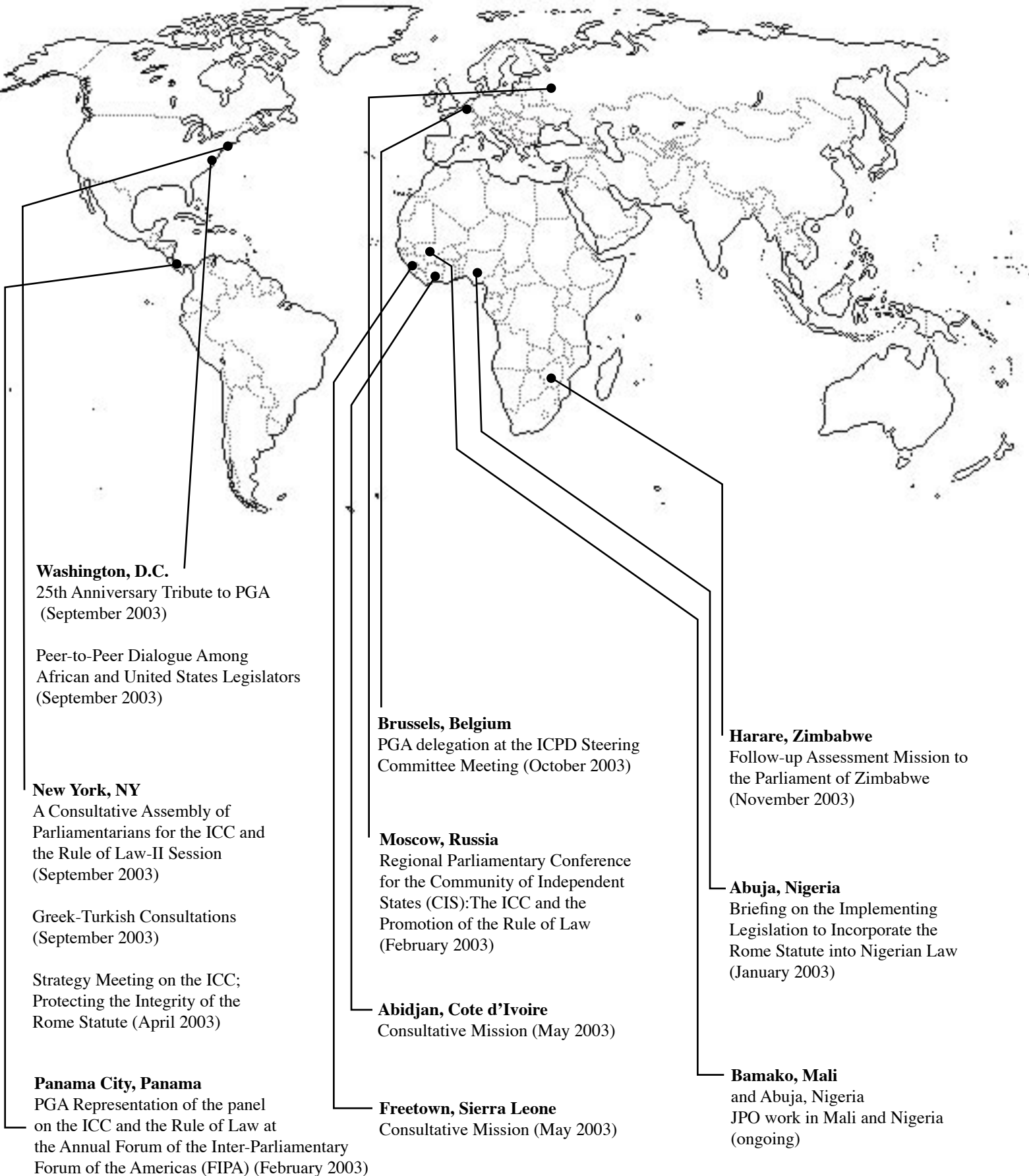
West Europe

Austria
Belgium
Denmark*
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
Spain
Sweden*
Switzerland*
United Kingdom*

*denotes multi-party PGA National Groups

** Awaiting status

PGA ACTIVITIES WORLDWIDE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION PROGRAMME

Convenor

Mr. Tony Worthington, MP (United Kingdom)

Deputy Convenors:

Ms. Elissavet Papademetriou, MP (Greece)
Rep. Dennis Kucinich (United States)

Programme Advisors:

Amb. Nicholaas Biegman, *former
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of
the Netherlands to the North Atlantic Treaty
at Brussels, Belgium*

Ms. Margaret Catley-Carlson, *Chair, Global
Water Partnership*

Dr. Steven Sinding, *President, International
Planned Parenthood Federation*

Mr. Jacob Scherr, *Director, International
Programs, Natural Resources Defence
Council*

Programme Staff:

Ms. Anna Gekht, *Programme Officer (as of
July 2003)*

Ms. Katie Tell, *Programme Officer (through
May 2003)*

Ms. Ulrika Broback, *Junior Project Officer,
Mali*

Mr. Niklas Enander, *Junior Project Officer,
Nigeria*

In 2003, the Sustainable Development and Population Programme (SDP) included a number of activities aimed at preparing for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) +10. PGA, as a member of the Steering Committee for the Parliamentary Conference on ICPD (IPCI), participated in the Committee's meeting held in Brussels, Belgium in October of 2003. The meeting involved presentations of participating parliamentary networks on their activities towards achievements the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action. Mr. Tony Worthington, MP (United Kingdom), Convenor of the SDP Programme, presented on PGA's work towards the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The delegation also took active part in discussing and affirming the plans for the upcoming Second IPCI Conference to be held in Strasbourg, France in October of 2004.

PGA Junior Project Officer (JPO) Programme

PGA continued its Junior Project Officer (JPO) Programme in Nigeria and Mali. Mr. Niklas Enander, PGA's JPO in Nigeria, was invited by Sen. Peter Andeyamo, (Nigeria) to participate in a three-day workshop in his constituency of Ibadan, Oyo State. The Constituency Outreach Project on Grassroots Participation in Politics took place January 15-17, 2003 and gathered 150

participants representing local government and NGOs from the county. The workshop aimed to encourage constituents to work with local government in actively planning and managing their local environment. A follow-up to the workshop was organized by Sen. Andeyamo. The Constituency Outreach Project on the Environment in Oyo State took place on March 19-20.

On May 26th, PGA was invited by Prof. Ali Nuhoum Diallo, Speaker of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament, to present for the ECOWAS Conference of Chairmen in Abuja, Nigeria. Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana), President of PGA and Ms. Ulrika Broback, PGA's JPO in Mali, spoke about PGA's body of work. Mr. Niklas Enander and Mr. Michael Agbeko, representative of PGA staff in New York, were also present at the conference. The presentation formally introduced PGA to the ECOWAS Parliament. On June 13th, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the ECOWAS Parliament and PGA ensuring that both parties "will work collaboratively on issues of political integration and sustainable development in West Africa." The two collaborating parties also agreed to organize seminars on human trafficking, migration, population, health, and sustainable development in the region.

Parliamentary Seminar on Budgeting,
Bamako, Mali (December 2003)



left: Participants of the Constituency Outreach Project on Grassroots Participation in Politics, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria (January 2003): Ms. Fran Farmer, Sr. Technical Advisor (NDI); Sen. Peter Andeyamo (Nigeria); Ms. Grace Delano, Executive Director (ARFH); Mr. Niklas Enander, PGA Junior Project Officer, Sustainable Development and Population, Nigeria



In collaboration with Plan International, Mali, Ms. Ulrika Broback and Mme. Keita Josephine Traore, director of Programme National de Lutte Contre l'Excision (PNLE), organized a Workshop on Female Genital Cuttings (FGC) which took place on May 10th in the National Assembly, Bamako, Mali. The workshop was very well received by the Malian MPs and was successful in sensitizing the deputies about this controversial issue. On June 23-24, PGA collaborated with the Policy Project and Pathfinder Nigeria in organizing a parliamentary meeting on HIV/AIDS in the Malian National Assembly. The project was initiated by Dep. Zoumana Sangare, (Mali), Chair of the HIV/AIDS network at the National Assembly and Ms. Broback. While approximately 62 percent of the 147 Malian deputies were elected into parliament for the first time, the workshop aimed to inform Malian parliamentarians about the problems associated with HIV/AIDS. The AIDS Impact Model and the Modele RAPID (Ressources pour Analyse de la Population et de son Impact sur le Developpement) were presented at the workshop as methods that enable the government and businesses to analyze the effects of HIV/AIDS on development of the country.

On November 14th, Ms. Broback was invited to attend the monthly donor meeting with all representatives of the European Union in Mali at the Dutch Embassy. At the meeting, Ms. Broback introduced PGA's work and her mission as a JPO in Mali to the ambassadors of the European Commission, France, Holland, Belgium, Sweden, U.K. and Germany. She also gave a short outline of the three missions of the National Assembly, followed by an analysis of the present parliamentary capacity situation with regard to human capital and administrative resources. The participants showed a great interest in the PGA network and specifically in the SDP Programme.

Due to a high number of newly elected deputies without previous parliamentary work experience, deputies requested a budget seminar to provide an overview of the basic elements of the budget procedure. The PGA network in Mali arranged budget seminar which took place on December 5-6 at the Malian National Assembly. The seminar was officially opened by the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly,

Dep. Assarid Ag Imbarcaouane, Dep. Boubou Koita, President of PGA National Group in Mali and Swedish representative Mr. Anders Östman. The objective of the seminar was to assist the deputies in analyzing budgets and to exchange experiences from budget procedures in Europe. The seminar provided deputies with an overview of the basic elements of a budget procedure with particular emphasis on sustainable development and population issues within the budget framework. Upon the completion of the seminar, the participants requested for PGA to arrange a follow-up meeting focusing on parliamentary budgeting procedures.

On December 16, PGA launched a much needed and immensely popular English language course for the Deputies of the National Assembly of Mali. The English course was officially opened by Dep. Oumar Kanoute, the Fifth Vice-President, Dep. Oumou Ba Sangare, First Vice-President and Mr. Dan Hamilton of the U.S Embassy in Bamako. The course currently includes 81 participants with four hours of training a week.

Under the supervision of Ms. Broback, the Malian National Group of PGA has commenced producing and distributing a quarterly four-page Bulletin where different population and development issues are highlighted by the parliamentarians. Approximately 200 copies are printed per edition and distributed in parliament as well as to NGOs and donor agencies. The Bulletin is an effective tool for informing legislators on the issues at hand.*

Mr. Niklas Enander, PGA Junior Project Officer (JPO), Sustainable Development and Population, Nigeria



Mme. Halima Ahmed, Secretary-General, ECOWAS; Mr. Mohamed Diakite, Deputy-Secretary-General, ECOWAS



Parliamentary Seminar on Budgeting, Bamako, Mali (December 2003)



Mr. Tony Worthington, MP (United Kingdom), Convenor, Sustainable Development and Population Programme



Ms. Ulrika Broback, PGA Junior Project Officer (JPO), Sustainable Development and Population, Mali

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

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Rep. Dennis Kucinich (United States)

Treasurer

Ms. Birgitta Ahlqvist, MP (Sweden)

PGA's Executive Committee meets twice a year to discuss programme and management strategies that ensure the successful continuation of PGA activities. The first meeting of 2003 took place April 23rd at PGA headquarters in New York. On September 15, 2003, the second meeting was held in conjunction with PGA's 25th Anniversary Tribute in Washington, D.C. Board members discussed PGA's three programmes and the activities planned for 2004. The board also agreed to induct Sierra Leone as a member of PGA.

At the International Council Meeting in Washington, D.C., Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana) was reelected as President of PGA. Elections were also held for six members on the Executive Committee. The results were: Sen. Alain Destexhe (Belgium); Rep. Dennis Kucinich (United States); Dip. Minou Tavaréz Mirabal (Dominican Republic); Ms. Thandi Modise, MP (South Africa); Sen. Longin Pastusiak (Poland); and Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, (Philippines).

In addition, five members were elected to the International Council: Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada); Mr. Alban Bagbin, MP (Ghana); Sen. Tom Harkin (United States); Sen. Anthony Johnson (Jamaica); and Hon. Ross Robertson, MP (New Zealand).*



Dip. Margarita Stolbizer (Argentina); Mr. Tony Worthington, MP (United Kingdom); Hon. Ross Robertson, MP (New Zealand)



Ms. Elissavet Papademetriou, MP (Greece); Dep. Oumou Ba Sangare (Mali)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

2003 INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

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Johnson (Jamaica)

Mr. Jeppe Kofod, MP (Denmark); Dep. Antonio
Carlos Pannunzio (Brazil); Mr. Kent Olsson
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Amb. Juan Somavía, *Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO)*

Ms. Carol Bellamy, *Executive Director, UNICEF*

Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, *Administrator, UNDP*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Winnie Tam & Co., P.C., member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants, conducts the annual audit of Parliamentarians for Global Action.

The complete financial statements are available upon request by writing to:

The Financial Director
Parliamentarians for Global Action
211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1604
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA

To the Board of Directors,

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Parliamentarians for Global Action as of December 31, 2003 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Parliamentarians for Global Action's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements on our audit.

We concluded our audit in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Parliamentarians for Global Action as of December 31, 2004 and the change in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

New York, New York
February 11, 2004

EXHIBIT A PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003

ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED OPERATING	RESERVE	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	204,045	731,668	89,627	1,025,340
Investments		348,549		348,549
Grants and contribution receivable	385		97,683	98,068
Other receivable	5,407			5,407
Prepaid Expenses	1,948			1,948
Total Current Assets	211,785	1,080,217	187,310	1,479,312
Fixed Assets				
Fixed Assets, at cost net of accumulated depreciation of \$194,324 Note 2	50,162			50,162
Other Asset				
Security Deposits	14,752			1,479,312
Total Asset	276,699	1,080,217	187,310	1,544,226
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
LIABILITIES				
Current Liability				
Accounts and accrued expenses payable	31,201			31,201
Deferred program revenue	245,498			245,498
Total Liabilities	276,699			276,699
Net Assets				
Unrestricted				
Operating Fund		1,080,217		1,080,217
Reserve Fund				
Temporarily Restricted			187,310	187,310
Total Net Assets		1,080,217	187,310	1,267,527
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	276,699	1,080,217	187,310	1,544,226

EXHIBIT B
 PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION
 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
 AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Support and Revenue			
Contributions - Foundations	86,500	175,000	261,500
Contributions - Individuals	15,545		15,545
Contributions - UN and Governments	342,912	860,125	1,203,037
Direct Mail	9,072		9,072
Program Revenue	151,557		151,557
Membership Dues	9,120		9,120
Other Income	9,212		9,212
Investment Income	24,990		24,990
Net Unrealised loss on investment transactons	(4,606)		(4,606)
Total Support and Revenue	644,302	1,035,125	1,679,427
Net assets released from restrictions			
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	1,029,553	(1,029,553)	-
Total Support and Revenue	1,673,855	5,572	1,679,427
Expenses			
Program Services			
Democracy	295,712		295,712
International Law	507,107		507,107
Sustainable Development and Population	221,328		221,328
Total Program Services	1,024,147		1,024,147
Supporting Services			
Administrative and General	576,930		576,930
Fund Raising	32,407		32,407
Total Supporting Services	609,337		609,337
Total Expenses	1,633,484		1,633,484
Change in Net Assets	40,371	5,572	45,943
Net Assets as of December 31, 2002	1,039,846	181,738	1,221,584
Net Assets as of December 31, 2003	1,080,217	187,310	1,267,527

Government/United Nations Agencies

US\$

European Commission	\$474,168.52
Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)	\$401,974.56
The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs	\$317,060.00
Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DANIDA)	\$149,788.25
Department of International Foreign Trade (DFAIT) Canada	\$37,643.56
UNFPA	\$27,000.00
Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs	\$30,000.00
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland	\$5,428.00
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	\$591.04
	\$1,443,653.93

Foundations

The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation	\$100,000.00
Ford Foundation	\$75,000.00
Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust	\$7,500.00
The Raymond and Elizabeth Bloch Educational and Charitable Foundation	\$4,000.00
	\$186,500.00

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Robert Gill Walker

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Ms. Jean Cluett

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Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi

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International Law and Human Rights

Ms. Eva Dunn, *Senior Programme Officer,*
Peace and Democracy

Ms. Nebiyat Woldemichael, *Programme*
Officer, Peace and Democracy

Mr. Juan Kim, *Programme Officer,*
International Law and Human Rights

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Sustainable Development and Population
(through May 2003)

Ms. Anna Gekht, *Programme Officer,*
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Rights

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Officer (Mali)

Mr. Niklas Enander, *Junior Project Officer*
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Ms. Fatimé Dam, *Executive Officer*
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(through June 2003)

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Associate (from July 2003)

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Mr. Michael Emperor

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Ms. Elizabeth Richardson

Mr. Klas Sandstrom

Ms. Lisa von Trapp



l-r: Mr. Michael Agbeko, Director of Finance and Administration; Ms. Nebiyat Woldemichael, Programme Officer, Peace and Democracy; Mr. Juan Kim, Programme Officer, International Law and Human Rights; Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi, Secretary-General; Mr. Brian Kett, Membership and Administrative Associate; Ms. Samar Al-Bulushi, Programme Associate, International Law and Human Rights; Ms. Anna Gekht, Programme Officer, Sustainable Development and Population; Ms. Helen Vasilopoulos, Development Associate; Ms. Ayaka Suzuki, former PGA staff; Ms. Fatime Dam, Executive Officer; Ms. Eva Dunn, Senior Programme Officer, Peace and Democracy

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Mr. Ibrahima Diouf

Ms. Andreea Pavel

Ms. Janine Poreba

Ms. Lilah Rahn-Lee

Ms. Helen Vasilopoulos

ABOUT PGA

A Dynamic Network of Individual Democratically Elected Legislators

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) was established in 1978-1979 by concerned legislators from around the world to take joint action on global problems which could not be solved by any one government or parliament. While its initial driving force was the critical need for disarmament, PGA today works on an expanded list of global issues such as fostering democracy, conflict prevention and management, international law and human rights, sustainable development and population.

PGA is an association of over 1300 individual parliamentarians in 110 countries that is action-oriented with specific programmes under the political direction of a 15-member Board. This structure allows PGA to effectively push policies at the national, regional, and international levels. The leadership also includes an International Council that represents all the regions of the world. PGA works closely with the United Nations system through the advisory body of the UN Committee which includes senior UN ambassadors, high-level UN officials, and some leading NGO representatives. The current Chair of the Committee is H.E. Mr. Pierre Schori, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Sweden.

With a membership of only elected legislators, PGA's members bring their authority and the mandate of their constituents. PGA's effectiveness is thus due to members' responsibility toward their constituents.

PGA includes in its membership a concentration of high-level politicians, including Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, and Chairs of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Population, Health, and Defense Committees. Many of PGA's members have left parliament for higher government posts. Some of our ex-members have served as President of Iceland, President of Botswana, Prime Minister and President of Trinidad and Tobago, and Vice President of

the Dominican Republic. Also, as an NGO of legislators, PGA is the parliamentary link with civil society groups. PGA's programmes on Peace and Democracy, Sustainable Development and Population, and International Law and Human Rights work in close cooperation with NGOs and leading research institutions in these fields.

PGA also has an extremely effective track record with inter-governmental agencies such as the UN Secretariat, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNESCO, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and International IDEA. PGA's guiding principle of enabling dialogue among key players from both government and opposition and its close working relationship with members serving on relevant parliamentary committees makes it an invaluable agency for the negotiation and implementation of any successful policy.

With headquarters in New York City, PGA is affiliated with the United Nations as an organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The offices of National Group representatives and other leading PGA members serve as liaison links in various countries around the world.*

Photo credits: PGA staff and consultants

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