



## PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

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### PARLIAMENTARY GROUP WELCOMES THE WITHDRAWAL OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1487 ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

*NEW YORK; June 24, 2004* – Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) welcomes the position of several UN Member States that prevented the renewal of Security Council resolution 1487 requested by the United States. Passed in 2002 as resolution 1422 and renewed last year as resolution 1487, the measure was aimed at suspending for a 12-month period investigations or prosecutions by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of peacekeepers from non-States Parties to the Court who may have committed genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity. Now that the resolution is dropped, the ICC jurisdiction is fully “restored” on all crimes under the Rome Statute committed in the territories of ICC States Parties after July 1, 2002.

The no-go on the anti-ICC resolution is in line with Resolution 1546 on Iraq, which appealed to “the commitment of all forces promoting the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq to act in accordance with international law, including obligations under international humanitarian law, and to cooperate with relevant international organizations.”

Members of Parliamentarians for Global Action from several regions of the world took very effective initiatives to prevent the renewal of the resolution.

In **Brazil**, Deputy **Orlando Fantazzini** made several declarations and a written intervention urging the Government of Brazil to oppose the resolution. The Brazilian government reported to Parliament that they would not support it at the Security Council.

In **Chile**, Deputy **Gabriel Ascencio** and Senator **Josè Antonio Viera Gallo** requested their Government to change its voting record at the Council. During a debate of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile on May 17, 2004, Ascencio called the resolution “*politically unacceptable*,” and said that “*our government must oppose it*.” The active involvement of the President of the Cámara de Diputados **Isabel Allende** contributed to the decision of the Executive to abstain on the resolution.

In the **United Kingdom**, PGA members, including **Tony Worthington, MP** and **John Battle, MP** challenged several times in the last two years the UK support for the US-backed resolution. On 21 May, **Battle** formally questioned the Foreign Office on the negative implications of the resolution. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Bill Rammell wrote in his response that the UK did not agree with the US concerns relating the ICC, but that they would have voted in favour of the resolution and, at the same time, urged “*the US to recognise that a further resolution next year will not be necessary*.” On June 23, Prime Minister Tony Blair affirmed unconditional support for the ICC at the House of the Commons during the question time.

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PGA IS AN ASSOCIATION OF OVER 1350 LEGISLATORS FROM 110 COUNTRIES UNITED TO PROMOTE SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS. PGA MEMBERS HAVE SUPPORTED 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 PROGRAMME, INTRODUCED A UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT. SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE ROME STATUTE OF THE ICC ON 17 JULY 1998, PGA MPs HAVE PROMOTED THE RATIFICATION AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATUTE, WHICH ENTERED INTO FORCE ON JULY 1, 2002.

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