



## PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

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### PARLIAMENTARY GROUP WELCOMES KENYA'S RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) STATUTE Kenya is 98<sup>th</sup> ICC State Party, Dominican Republic expected to become 99<sup>th</sup>

*NEW YORK; March 15, 2005* – Following the decision by the Government of **Kenya** to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on February 17, 2005, the Attorney General, **Mr. Amos Wako, MP** and Member of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), deposited today at United Nations Headquarters in New York the instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute, thus bringing to 98 the number of ICC States Parties. The ICC is the first permanent judicial institution aimed at putting an end to the impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The Deputy-Speaker and leading PGA Member in Kenya, **Hon. David Musila, MP**, expressed deep satisfaction for Kenya's participation in the new system of international criminal justice. "It is very important for all East African countries to be part of the ICC system, especially at a time when the ICC Prosecutor is investigating atrocities committed in the African Great Lakes region," Deputy-Speaker Musila said. Earlier today, a status conference on the investigations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) took place in The Hague before the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber. Recent attacks against civilians in Ituri, Eastern DRC, are a reminder of the importance of the ICC, which can intervene in cases where national authorities are unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute.

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) highlights the dedication of its members to the ICC, noting in particular the developments in Kenya and the **Dominican Republic**. Thanks to the leadership of PGA Board Member **Dip. Minou Tavares Mirabal**, the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic voted unanimously in support of the ICC Ratification Bill on February 17, which was consequently adopted unanimously by the Senate on March 8, 2005. As Dip. Tavares Mirabal stated, "The Dominican Republic will be the 99<sup>th</sup> Member State of this new judicial institution, thus paving the way for the historic achievement of 100 ratifications of a treaty that was adopted only six and half years ago, on July 17, 1998."

Dip. Tavares Mirabal, a member of the Special Committee on Criminal Law Reform and a staunch advocate of international human rights, expressed her satisfaction with the adoption of the Dominican ICC Bill and the imminent approval of the new Penal Code of the Dominican Republic, which incorporates the crimes and general principles enshrined in the Rome Statute, including those relating to gender-justice. "We obtained multi-party support for the reform of the Penal Code, which offered a unique opportunity to begin implementing the ICC Statute in domestic law even before the ratification process began," Tavares Mirabal affirmed. "Implementing the Rome Statute in the domestic legal order will be the next stage on the ICC process in Kenya", Mr. Amos Wako, MP told PGA last Friday in New York.

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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, 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. The PGA Law Programme receives support from the European Commission, European Union.*

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