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New York City, October 31, 2006—Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a dynamic network of progressive global legislators, will host its third groundbreaking seminar, the Provincial Parliamentary Seminar on HIV/AIDS Policy in Lahore, Pakistan on December 9-11, 2006. Through PGA facilitated efforts and partnership with the Government of Pakistan, the issue of HIV/AIDS has gained continued awareness, especially from regional multi-party legislators. The third South Asian HIV/AIDS series seminar will bring together as co-hosts the Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Pakistan and the National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan. Other collaborators include the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

In a conservative society, the charged topic of HIV/AIDS has gained a footing with several legislators calling for immediate attention. Dr. Noor Jehan Panezai, MP (Pakistan) has been a vocal proponent of discussing HIV/AIDS, especially sensitive issues of sex workers, role of religious leaders, confronting stigma related to HIV prevention, testing and treatment. Dr. Panezai will give the introductory remarks along with **Dr. Nafis Sadik**, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for HIV & AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, who will give the keynote address commencing this Provincial Seminar. The location and timing of this important event has gained global attention with participants from the United States, **Representative Jim McDermott**; Canada, **Senator Raynell Andreychuk**, MP, PGA Executive Committee Member; Malaysia, **Dr. Junaidy bin Abdul Wahab**, MP; Punjab Assembly Speaker, **Hon. Chaudhary Muhammed Afzal Sahi**; a multi-party delegation from India, Nepal and Malawi. After the past successes of similar events in Pakistan, Islamabad, Karachi, Sindh Province and Dhaka, Bangladesh, this seminar will continue to examine the central issue of HIV/AIDS in relation to broader aspects such as recent challenges on global, regional and national levels, namely co-infections, *Hepatitis B, C and Tuberculosis*.

In the two-day seminar, parliamentarians will participate in panel discussions and group workshops. There will also be NGO showcases and video presentations. The seminar will conclude with parliamentarians setting out a plan of implementation through the adoption of a Declaration of Action, reaffirming their commitment to HIV/AIDS and achieving agreed goals. This seminar is supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and ActionAid International.

For additional information about this event, please contact Ms. Eleni Mavrogeorgis by tel. 212-687-7755 (104) or email, eleni@pgaction.org. Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is an organization of over 1,300 MPs from 114 parliaments, engaged in a range of action-oriented global initiatives that promote democracy, justice and development. The South Asia HIV/AIDS seminar series began in Islamabad, Pakistan, 2005.

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