

## INFORMATIONAL NOTE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA)

The Hague, 30 November 2006 / Tokyo, 1 December 2006

On 30 November 2006, the V Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court (ASP ICC) met in The Hague to discuss the budget of the ICC for the year 2007.

After a long negotiation, the 104 Member States to the ASP ICC unanimously agreed with the proposal of Canada-Australia-New Zealand (CANZ) to apply the same ceiling to the largest contributor to the ICC budget as it currently applies to the largest contributor to the United Nations budget (22% of the total budget).

The Japanese Delegation attending the ICC ASP warmly welcomed this decision of the Assembly of States Parties, which may further facilitate the decision of Japan to join the new system of international criminal justice and accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC in 2007.

On 24 November 2006, the PGA Statement to the ASP ICC Plenary, forcefully delivered by Mr. Albert Koenders, MP (The Netherlands), recently elected President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, contained the following appeal to the all ASP delegations:

[...] PGA members have redoubled their efforts to promote the universality of the ICC in Asia, the least represented region in this Assembly. For this purpose, PGA will hold in Tokyo, Japan, on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006 the Fourth Session of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law. The PGA Consultative Assembly is the only global forum where members of parliaments from all over the world gather to share experiences and take vows of action in favour of the ICC. The Japanese Diet has agreed to host this event as the result of the intense work that Japanese parliamentarians have undertaken as members of PGA to guarantee that this nation honours its commitment to truly universal justice.

[Mr. President,]

PGA hopes that by the early next year all sectors of government and society in Japan will speak with one voice and decide to take the final step to accede the Rome Statute. We are aware, however, that the accession process' deliberations within government are linked with the assessment of contributions to the budget of the Court to be decided by this Assembly in the coming days. PGA Members in Japan await with interest the decisions of this Assembly in this respect. [...]

The text to be included in the resolution on budgetary matters as established in Annex I of the Report of the Working Group on the Programme Budget for 2007 of the International Criminal Court ICC-ASP/5/WGPB/1, 30 November 2006 (corrected), is hereby reproduced:

### ***C. Scale of Assessment for the apportionment of expenses of the International Criminal Court***

*The Assembly of States Parties,*

*Decides that, for the year 2007, the International Criminal Court shall adopt the scale of assessments of the United Nations applicable for the year 2007, with adjustments to take into account the difference in membership between the United Nations and the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, in accordance with the principles upon which the scale of the United Nations is based.*

*Notes that, in addition, any maximum assessment rate for the largest contributor applicable for the United Nations regular budget will apply to the International Criminal Court's scale of assessment.*