



Parliamentarians for Global Action INDONESIA CHAPTER

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Senior Legislators and the Government of Indonesia Agree to Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

Speaker of Parliament Mr. Agung Laksono inaugurated the Indonesian Chapter of PGA

Yesterday, for the first time after the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan of Indonesia 2004–08, high level Government officials and Parliamentarians united their voice to announce that Indonesia will accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC in 2008, and that preparations shall be made to meet the deadline.

Opened by the Speaker of the Parliament **Mr. Agung Laksono MP**, who welcomed the formation of a PGA Chapter in the Indonesian Parliament under the leadership of Foreign Affairs Committee Chair **Dr. Theo Sambuaga MP**, the Round Table Discussion saw the participation of approximately 80 Parliamentarians, Government officials, representatives of the security sector, NGOs and academics.

Foreign Minister Dr. Wasan Wirayudha underscored the timeliness of the PGA initiative to gather key Lawmakers from the relevant Committees and other stakeholders who shall take ownership and leadership in implementing the National Human Rights Plan that recommends Indonesia's accession to the Rome Statute by 2008. "The ICC", the Minister stated, "is a milestone for the globalisation and internationalisation of the Rule of Law" to prevent and repress the most serious crimes of international concern. "The foreign policy of Indonesia is centred on the promotion of democracy and human rights, internally and externally" he said, making clear that national interest of Indonesia collides with international community interest to fight impunity, prevent abuse and empower multilateral institutions such as the ICC.

The Director General of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, **Prof. Harkristuti Harkrisnowo**, concurred with the Foreign Minister's view, and announced that her Ministry will intensify preparations of the relevant legislative tools to accede and implement the Rome Statute. Former Attorney General **Mr. Marzuki Darusman MP** underlined the self-executing nature of substantive provisions of the Rome Statute, which shall become "law of the land" of Indonesia, while declaring the full availability of the Parliament – particularly of its Law Commission – to work on the legislation to cooperate with the Court.

The Indonesian Government and Parliamentarians' statements were preceded by a cogent appeal of PGA Int'l Council President **Mr. Ross Robertson MP** (New Zealand), who stressed that "it is our duty as elected Parliamentarians to protect civilians from atrocities, violence and armed conflict, and Law-Abiding Nations have all to gain and nothing to lose in joining the new system of international criminal justice created by the ICC". Mr. Robertson noted that Indonesia is the 3rd largest democracy of the world

and the first Muslim-population country: its participation in the ICC will significantly advance the universality of the ICC in the Asia-Pacific.

At a time in which Japan is poised to accede to the Rome Statute (by 2007), Indonesia's accession is creating a new *momentum* for universal human rights and the Rule of Law in Asia. As of today, 104 States are Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including 19 Member States to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Members of Parliamentarians for Global Action, who already played a pivotal role in 59 ratification processes in all regions of the world, are now increasing their initiative in most OIC countries in which they have multi-party membership.

The multi-party approach of PGA is reflected in the leadership of its new Indonesian Chapter: **Dr. Theo Sambuaga MP** and **Mr. Marzuki Darusman MP** (Golkar), human rights' leader **Mrs. Nursyahbani Katjasungkana MP** (PKB-National Awakening Party) and **Mr. Djoko Susilo MP** (National Mandate Party-PAN) have been the leading force behind yesterday's debate in Parliament on the ICC, which was concluded by a strong pro-ratification statement of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee Chair **Mr. Abdillah Toha MP** (PAN). Other MPs from other Parties echoed their peers in support of the ICC in the Indonesian Parliament, bringing about an emerging multi-party consensus on this pivotal issue.

The Ambassadors of Germany (Presidency of the European Union), Australia, Cambodia (ASEAN State Party to the Rome Statute), The Netherlands, New Zealand and Singapore, as well as several other representatives of the Diplomatic court, attended the session, along with representatives of civil society organisations, independent state agencies such as the Commission on Violence against Women, the national Police, the legal profession, the academia and the media.

PGA is grateful for the support provided to the *PGA ICC Campaign* by the European Commission and by the Governments of The Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland, as well as for the core support of Sweden and Denmark.