



PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Dr. David Donat-Cattin
Director of Programmes
Tel: +1 (212) 687-7755 ext. 105
Fax: +1 (212) 687-8409
Email: donat@pgaction.org

PGA CONGRATULATES THE YEMENI PARLIAMENT AND LOOKS FORWARD TO YEMEN SWIFTLY BECOMING THE 105TH STATE PARTY TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

New York, 28 March 2007- Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a global network of more than 1300 members of parliament from 112 countries worldwide, warmly congratulates its members in the Yemeni Parliament who voted in favor of the ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC on 24th March 2007.

Committed members of the Yemeni Parliament, who are also members of PGA, have worked tirelessly in recent years to achieve this approval that, it is hoped, will serve as positive catalyst for similar action in other countries in the Middle East and Arab region. In December 2006, at the only global parliamentary forum specifically supporting the International Criminal Court (ICC): 'PGA's Consultative Assembly for the ICC and the Rule of Law', **Mr. Sultan Hizam Al-Atwany MP** (Yemen) signed the Tokyo Resolution on Human Security, the Rule of Law & the International Criminal Court, which includes strong individual commitments of Legislators to fight impunity and promote the universality and effectiveness of the new system of international criminal justice created by the Rome Statute.

For PGA Member **Mr. Assoumani Mondoha**, MP of The Comoros Islands (that in 2006 became the 3rd Member State of the Arab League to join the Rome Statute), this vote is the natural result of the sustained commitment to overcome political and legal obstacles to fully join the ICC. He expressed his joy at this news and also the hope that the ratification process would be completed soon with the deposit of Yemen's Instrument of Ratification at the United Nations in order to welcome his fellow parliamentarians into the ICC system.

Mr. Mondoha stated, "*The positive voting of the Yemeni Parliament reaffirms also the universal character of the justice promised by the ICC with complementary jurisdiction for the most serious crimes, in which all legal systems are represented, for which all individuals and all States are equal*".

PGA has conducted its Campaign for the Universality of the ICC since the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998. Its members have lead, authored and achieved ratifications of the Rome Statute in 58 countries of the current 104 State Parties to the Rome Statute including the recent ratifications of Kenya, Dominican Republic, Mexico and the Comoros Islands. PGA's activities in the Middle East and North Africa Region, one of the most underrepresented regions within the ICC system, have intensified in the past two years with the help of members of Parliament and civil society in this region.

For more information on past and future activities of PGA's International Law & Human Rights Programme, please visit the PGA website at www.pgaction.org.

#