



PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA)

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JAPAN ADOPTS LEGISLATION TO JOIN AND COOPERATE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT JAPANESE PARLIAMENT PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE PROCESS OF ACCESSION TO THE ICC STATUTE

Tokyo-New York-The Hague, April 27, 2007 – Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) welcomes today a milestone development for the effectiveness and universality of the International Criminal Court (ICC): In Tokyo, the National Diet (Parliament) completed the process of adoption of the ICC Accession and Cooperation Bill, which will allow Japan to become the 105th State Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Sen. **Tadashi Inuzuka**, Deputy Convenor of the PGA International Law and Human Rights Programme/ICC Campaign, saluted this event as “the result of a long journey that lasted many years in which we questioned the Government, we created awareness among our colleagues and our electorate, and we brought a message of hope to our citizens and around the world that a peace-loving nation like Japan should not have missed this opportunity and stay out of the new system of international criminal justice”. A Nagasaki-elected legislator, Sen. Inuzuka was the main organizer of the *IV Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law*, which took place in Tokyo on December 4-5 2006. “165 Legislators from all regions of the world came to the Japanese Diet to discuss the ICC on that occasion”, affirmed Sen. Inuzuka, “and now we have fulfilled our commitment to be part of the ICC system aimed at fighting impunity for the most serious crimes known to humankind.”

Along similar lines, former Justice Minister Rep. **Mayumi Moriyama** (PGA Japan) welcomed the Parliament's decision and called upon the Government “to develop and strengthen our support to increase ratification by the Asian and African countries”. As of today, only few countries in the Asian continent have joined the Rome Statute: this is why in the past three years PGA has intensified its efforts through its membership in the Legislatures of Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Nepal and other countries in the region. Rep. Moriyama's statement was echoed by former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sen. **Kiyohiko Tooyama** (PGA Japan), who stressed the importance of “having supported Japan's *unconditioned* accession to and cooperation with the ICC, as recently attested by the reply in the negative of Foreign Minister Taro Aso to my question concerning whether Japan would have entered into a bilateral agreement exempting certain nationals from the reach of the ICC”.

The Convenor of the PGA International Law and Human Rights programme, Sen. **Raynell Andreychuk** of Canada, expressed satisfaction on behalf of the entire PGA network of 1200 Members in 117 Parliaments: “The fight against impunity in Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Northern Uganda and other situations investigated by the ICC is reinforced by today's sovereign decision of the Japanese Diet to accede to the Rome Statute and adopt legislation to cooperate with the ICC. Japan will bring its invaluable human and financial contribution to the effort to create an international rule of law”, Sen. Andreychuk said, reaffirming the vision of PGA, which is “*to contribute to the creation of a Rules-Based International Order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world.*”

About PGA

Parliamentarians for Global Action is a network of 1300 parliamentarians from 117 Parliaments worldwide that in the past seventeen years has promoted a permanent, effective and universal ICC. PGA members have led, launched and/or authored ratification and implementation initiatives of the Rome Statute in 59 out of the 104 State Parties of the ICC, including some of the more recent States that have joined the ICC - Kenya, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico in 2005, and The Comoros in 2006. PGA held its “*IV Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law*” in Tokyo, Japan, on 4-5 December 2006; on that occasion, the Government of Japan announced to the 165 MPs from all regions of the world attending the *Assembly* its decision to accede to the ICC Statute by 2007 (<http://www.pgaction.org/about.asp?id=231>).

PGA is a member of the Steering Committee of the Coalition for the ICC. PGA receives the support of the European Commission (EU) and of the Governments of Belgium, The Netherlands, and Switzerland, as well as core support from Denmark and Sweden.
