



Parliamentarians for Global Action
Acción Mundial de Parlamentarios
Action Mondiale de Parlementaires

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS

Sen. Tadashi Inuzuka, National Diet of Japan and
Rep. Mayumi Moriyama, National Diet of Japan
+81-3-3508-8318 (Tokyo); tadashi_inuzuka1@sangiin.go.jp
Dr. David Donat Cattin, Director of Programs, PGA
+1.212. 687 7755 ext. 105 (NY); donat@pgaction.org

**STATEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION ON THE ACCESSION
OF JAPAN TO THE STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**
THE ICC HAS NOW 105 STATES PARTIES

Tokyo/New York: “Today, July 17, 2007, International Justice Day, Japan is formally becoming a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

It was 9 years ago, at the conclusion of the Rome Conference, when Japan approved the Statute, but chose not to sign it. When Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) started campaigning for the ICC among fellow colleagues in the National Diet of Japan in 2001, we progressively gathered support from all across the political spectrum, culminating in the two-years’ process that led to the largest political gathering on the issue of international justice, namely, PGA’s *Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law*, held in December 2006 in Tokyo. The unanimous votes of the Lower House on 27 February 2007 and of the Upper House on 27 April 2007 in support of the *ICC Accession and Cooperation Law* attest to the tireless multi-party determination of the Japanese Legislators to participate in the fight against impunity and the prevention of the most serious international crimes against human-kind.”

*Statement of **Sen. Tadashi Inuzuka** (DPJ, opposition), Executive Committee Member of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and **Rep. Mayumi Moriyama** (LDP, majority), Former Justice Minister and Chair of the Executive Committee that hosted the PGA’s Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law.*

BACKGROUND:

Japan is the 105th State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC is based in The Hague, and its Prosecutor, Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, has opened four investigations on the situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Northern Uganda, Darfur-Sudan and the Central African Republic. The Pre-Trial Chambers of the Court have issued 8 arrest warrants against the alleged 5 leaders of Lord’s Resistance Army of Northern Uganda, the Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs of the Sudan and a Janjaweed militia leader of the Darfur, as well as a political and military leader of one of the multiple conflicts that took place in the DRC, Mr. Thomas Lubanga, who is awaiting trial in the Court’s detention centre in The Hague. The Office of the Prosecutor is also analyzing other situations in which war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide might have been committed: these situations include Afghanistan, Colombia and Cote d’Ivoire.

Law-makers working within the framework of the *Parliamentarian for Global Action Campaign for the International Criminal Court (PGA ICC Campaign)* have played an active role in 60 countries that are now States Parties to the

Rome Statute, thus mobilizing irreplaceable political support for international criminal justice and the rule of law. No other parliamentary institution or organisation is engaged in a global campaign for the universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute.

PGA’S VISION

To contribute to the creation of a Rules-Based International Order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world.

PGA’S MISSION STATEMENT

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a non-profit, non-partisan international network of elected legislators with over 1300 members in more than 100 countries and regional parliaments around the globe, aims to promote peace, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, sustainable development and population issues by informing, convening, and mobilizing parliamentarians to realize these goals.

WEBSITE

www.pgaction.org