



30th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action



Main table of the opening act of the 30th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), chaired by the Presidents of the Senate and the Deputy Chamber of the Dominican Republic, Reinaldo Pared Pérez and Julio Cesar Valentín, respectively

CELEBRATION OF THE ANNUAL FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

With the enthusiastic participation of representatives from 118 legislative organizations from several countries, the 30th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), in Dominican Republic, was underway.

In the opening act celebrated with the objective of promoting peace, democracy, justice, human rights and sustainable

development, the welcome speech was addressed by the president of the Organizing Committee and Vice President of the Senate, Cristina Lizardo, who emphasized that the conclave constitutes one of the most known country promotion campaigns.

She affirmed that the reasons convened in this opportunity, augur great results for the common cause of all parliamentarians in the search for happiness and the welfare of citizens of the world.

The 30th Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action will address topics like the "Reinforcement of Democratic Ins-

titutions", "Accountability" and "Rule of Law".

Also, the V Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court, that has been developing simultaneously, has been debating upon the aspects of "Universality and Effectiveness of the Institution", as well as the parliamentary attributions, issues all that Lizardo considered of paramount relevance.

Senator Lizardo, who presides over the Dominican Republic PGA Group, maintained that, along with her colleagues, they will become mediators of the approaches and discussions that will promote peace, development and the law.

She stated absolute conviction in the need for a continued promotion of the spirit of involvement in the collective purposes and plans among the parliamentarians of the world.

She maintained that the fundamental concept of the strengthening of the States, which captures the role to be played by the PGA, is not a plain wording of the purposes, but a concept of global character that is the duty of everyone consciously involved.



Panoramic view of the opening act which took place in the Hall of the National Assembly.



The President of the Senate, Reinaldo Pared Pérez, during his address.

PARED PÉREZ PRAISES CELEBRATION OF GREAT EVENT

During the conclave the President of the Senate, Reinaldo Pared Pérez said he was pleased that Dominican Republic was the chosen venue for the celebration of such great event and assured that the conclusions of the works will benefit all the participants, as well as the Parliamentarians for Global Action, as a whole.

He highlighted the existence of this important institution that congre-

gates members of 118 parliaments of the world, and affirmed that the objective of the event is to "promote peace, democracy, justice, human rights and sustainable development."

The Congressional lawmaker for the National District added that the content of the first part of the event goes hand in hand with the issues that are currently being addressed in the National Congress, like the bill on Constitutional amendment that the National Assembly convenes to ponder upon.

He emphasized the fact that along with the issues to be addressed in this

Forum, the parliamentarians included the Haitian situation in the agenda, a topic that has been introduced in many scenarios of the International Community.

The President of the Senate said that the success of the 30th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians celebration was guaranteed, because many valuable men and women worked in the preparation and organization of the event, under the coordination of lawmakers Cristina Lizardo, President of the Organizing Committee and Minou Tavarez Mirabal, member of the PGA International Council.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY PONDER'S ROLE OF THE STATE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TREATIES

During his presentation in the International forum, the District Attorney of the Republic, Radhames Jimenez, said that is the State's duty to pass legislations for the implementation of the treaties and conventions that they become part of.

The highest representative of the District Attorney's Office stressed how vital it is for countries that have ratified the International Criminal Court Statute, such as the Dominican Republic, to implement it the best way possible.

He pointed out that before requesting the application of universal jurisdiction, is necessary to exhaust internal processes that will undoubtedly lead to national legal systems with greater capacity to protect human rights and guarantee fundamental freedoms for their citizens.

He considered an essential victory for the International Criminal Court, the incorporation of sexual offenses as war crimes, and sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and consecutive violations as crimes of genocide category.

Radhames Jimenez said that the efforts made by Dominican Republic in the law arena, must be directed towards the implementation and incorporation of crimes of the competence of the International Criminal Law within its internal ruling, to ease, in every way possible, the mechanisms of cooperation with the Court.



The District Attorney of the Republic, Radhames Jiménez, addressing the audience.



Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw, from Nigeria, president of the Parliamentarians for Global Action.

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION MAKE AN APPEAL FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACIES

Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw, from Nigeria, president of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), encouraged his colleagues "to develop and strengthen the political support to the democratic institutions and to the international justice in all regions of the world."

Meanwhile, the coordinator of PGA's International Law Group and Human Rights Program, Sen. Marita Perceval, from Argentina, urged the participants to "join efforts in the fight against impunity and activate the process of executing pending court detention orders, which requires ur-

gent intervention of the law enforcing organisms in the States."

Senator Ewa-Henshaw and Senator Perceval, expressed their sincere congratulations to the parliamentary colleagues of the Czech Republic, who voted in favor of the ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC (International Criminal Court), with a majority of 140 votes and only 6 against.

In a joint statement issued during the forum, both senators reaffirmed the PGA's vision, "to contribute to the creation of an international order based on norms for a more fair, safe and democratic world."

DOMINICAN AND HAITIAN CONGRESS PRESIDENTS CONDEMNNS ACTS OF AGGRESSION

Both Presidents of the Dominican and Haitian Senate, strongly condemned the acts of aggression against a part of the Haitian community living in the country, set off by the events that took place in the communities of Neyba and Guayubín.

Reinaldo Pared Perez, President of the Senate of the Dominican Republic, said that these are isolated barbarian and abusive acts, made by bad Dominicans to rid Haitians of their belongings.

Both lawmakers expressed themselves on equal terms in a joint decla-

ration offered to the press, during a recess in the celebration of the 30th Annual Forum of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA).

Pared Perez called for peace and reflection between Dominicans and Haitians, because these communities of nationals and Haitians have lived peacefully.

Meanwhile, the President of the Haitian Senate, Kelly Bastien, said that the acts of violence his fellow country people were victims of are unacceptable, since they attempt against human dignity.



The President of the Dominican Senate, Reinaldo Pared Perez, and the President of the Haitian Senate, Kelly Bastien.



The President of the Dominican Republic, Leonel Fernandez, receives from the President of the Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Nigerian Bassey Ewa Henshaw, an award for promoting peace in the region, as of the Rio Group Summit. The President received the award in the National Palace.

FORUM COMES TO A
CLOSE SUCCESSFULLY

PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

At the closing of the 30th Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action, celebrated in Santo Domingo, the president of the Deputy Chamber of Dominican Republic, Julio Cesar Valentin Jiminian, established that good governance is that which is based on transparency, on managerial efficiency.

The lawmaker talked about "Reinforcing the democratic institutions, accountability, and the Rule of Law through universality and the effectiveness of the Rome Statute of ICC."



Julio César Valentín, in the internacional forum.

In this matter, he brought forth the importance accountability has in the strengthening of the rule of law.

He emphasized the importance responsibility in order to represent the citizens, in a way that can contribute to transparency and the efficiency in institutional administrative areas.

Previously, during one of the debates, the prosecutor for the International Criminal Court (ICC), Luis Moreno-Ocampo, explained that this organization is not a court intended to issue sentences on people or nations, but one that carries out extensive re-

searches in more than 18 countries around the world.

"Corruption is not a statute. I cannot lock anybody up on the account of corruption. I just cannot. I must abide the laws, but you, the parliamentarians, are the ones that must legislate so the laws can be changed. I respect and work with the law," said the ICC prosecutor to the plenary.

After the closing, the president of the Senate, Reinaldo Pared, offered a typical dinner to the participants, at the Museum of Royal Houses, in the Colonial City of Santo Domingo.



Panoramic view of the inauguration of this exceptional international event.



Foreign lawmakers receive their credentials during the first day of the forum.



Foreign lawmakers during the first day of the forum.



Family photo of the legislators participants in the great event.

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