



PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION
ACCION MUNDIAL DE PARLAMENTARIOS
ACTION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES

Buenos Aires, Ottawa, Dublin, Berlin, Tokyo, Mexico, Santo Domingo, Managua

19 May 2009

To the Honourable Members of the National Congress of Chile (via e-mail)

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure and honour to address this message to you as we celebrate the affirmative vote today of the Senate of Chile in connection with the Constitutional Amendment that would enable Chile to ratify the Rome Statute of 17 July 1998 that created the International Criminal Court (ICC). We now eagerly await the decision of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile in this matter.

The majority of us belong to the Parliaments of the 108 States that decided to unite their forces behind this judicial institution, the ICC, which is an essential building block towards further establishing and entrenching the Rule of Law within the international legal order, and we look forward to the upcoming membership of Chile as the 109th State Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC. A number of us come from other States where, unfortunately, the process of joining the ICC system, is not yet complete. With your momentous decision today, all of South America will soon be part of the Rome Statute of the ICC, thus forming an avant-garde block of the international community, with States like the Europeans, Canada, Japan, Mexico and other Latin American and African countries, that is committed to preventing and punishing the most serious crimes that shock the conscience of humankind and threaten international peace and security.

In the past weeks, you have adopted the law that is necessary to ensure the exercise of national jurisdiction over the future crimes set out in the Rome Statute, hence giving effect to the principle of complementarity between a sovereign State and the ICC. We are certain that your decision on the constitutional amendment will be informed by the same aims; your solidarity with the peoples and individuals that today are victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and your desire to contribute, as a nation, to the new system of international criminal justice for the punishment and deterrence of such crimes among future generations.

The membership of Chile in the system of the Rome Statute will bring about new opportunities and challenges that we are certain your Parliament, Government, civil society and legal community will be able to meet. For example, Chile will have the right to participate and take decisions in the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the ICC, to be convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations on 1 July 2009 and to be held in May-June 2010. Chile will also have the opportunity to nominate a candidate as Judge to the bench of the Court for the upcoming election by the ICC Assembly of States Parties meeting in November 2009 in The Hague. The voice of Chile will also be needed in the United Nations and other multilateral fora to protect victims, civilians and peacekeepers, who suffer from these serious crimes, and to remind those who have not yet joined the Rome Statute that justice and peace must always go hand-in hand and are not mutually exclusive.

We are proud to count leading Members of the Chilean Congress from all political groups and independents among our global network of PGA members who have worked with us around the world promoting solutions to global problems. The work of our association has been vitally enriched by their contribution, and today we hereby renew our strongest expression of support and applause for their, and your, commitment to international justice.

We look forward to learning of the outcome of the Constitutional amendment process relating to the ICC in Chile and remain at your disposal for any request of clarification, question or technical assistance through our Secretariat at the International Law and Human Rights Programme focused on the Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of ICC.

Please accept, dear Colleagues, this humble expression of our respect, admiration and highest esteem.

Sincerely,

Sen. Marita Perceval (Argentina - Partido Jusiticialista)
Chair, National Defense and Security Committee, Senate of Argentina
Convenor, PGA International and Human Rights Programme

Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada - Conservative Party)
Chair, Human Rights Committee, Senate of Canada
Deputy Convenor, PGA International and Human Rights Programme

Mr. M.J. Nolan, MP (Ireland - Republican Party)
Member, Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Deputies
Deputy Convenor, PGA International and Human Rights Programme

Mr. Jo Leinen, Member of the European Parliament (Germany - PSE)
Chair, Constitutional Affairs Committee, European Parliament
Member, Parliamentarians for Global Action

Dep. Carlos Antonio Pannuzio (Brasil - Christian Democractic Party)
Member, Parliamentarians for Global Action

Sen. Tadaschi Inuzuka (Japan - Democratic Party)
Member, Parliamentarians for Global Action

Sr. César Jaúregui (México - Partido Acción Nacional)
Federal judicial Council - Former Vicepresident of the Mexican Senate

Sen. Reynaldo Pared Pérez (República Dominicana - PLD)
Speaker of the Senate / Speaker of Constitutional Assembly

Dip. Minou Tavares Mirabal (Rep. Dominicana - PLD)
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies
Member, PGA International Council

Dip. José Ricardo Taveras (República Dominicana - Fuerza Nacional Progresista)
Presidente, Comisión de la Reforma al Código Penal

Dip. José Bernard Pallais Arana (Nicaragua - Partido Liberal Constitucionalista)
Chair, Constitution Committee / Member, Parliamentarians for Global Action