



## Parliamentarians for Global Action

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#### CONTACTS:

**New York:** Mr. Peter Barcroft, Senior Programme Officer for Intl. Law & Human Rights, PGA  
T. 1 917 414 0254 -- [peter.barcroft@pgaction.org](mailto:peter.barcroft@pgaction.org)

**The Hague:** Ms. Deborah Ruiz Verduzco, Senior Programme Officer for Intl. Law & Human Rights, PGA  
T. 31 (0)6 2331 8581 -- [deborah.ruiz@pgaction.org](mailto:deborah.ruiz@pgaction.org)

### **ST. LUCIA JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AS ITS 113<sup>TH</sup> STATE PARTY**

*New York/The Hague, August 18, 2010* – PGA congratulates St. Lucia who today has deposited its Instrument of Ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) with the United Nations (UN) in New York. This brings to 113 the number of States that have joined the ICC system and now only 5 countries in the Caribbean region are not yet Parties to the Statute - Bahamas, Cuba, Grenada, Haiti and Jamaica. The very notion and concept of an International Criminal Court was raised in a UN General Assembly Resolution in 1989 by a Caribbean State, Trinidad and Tobago, at the initiative of a PGA Member, Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, MP, in his capacity as Prime Minister (Mr. Robinson subsequently became Head of State). St. Lucia's ratification therefore confirms and reinforces the Caribbean's role in making the International Criminal Court a lasting and effective reality.

For a number of years, Parliamentarians for Global Action, a network of over 1,300 Legislators from over 120 countries world-wide, has been pleased to work in the Caribbean, most recently holding its 5<sup>th</sup> *Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the ICC and Rule of Law* in 2008 in Santo Domingo, The Dominican Republic and, earlier in the same year, a regional conference on Ratification and Implementation of the Rome Statute in Paramaribo, Suriname, which included as participants its Member MPs in the region as well as relevant government officials.

Longstanding PGA Member, **Senator Everistus Jean Marie**, Deputy President of the Senate of St. Lucia, who participated in these events of the PGA ICC Campaign in 2008, commented today, on learning of the ratification of the Rome Statute by St. Lucia, as follows: *"I am very pleased and proud that the St Lucia government has come to realize the vital role that the ICC is playing in the furtherance of the international common good and has now deposited its instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC. Crimes against humanity should be a matter of concern for all people of goodwill and the fight against it must leave room for a jurisdiction beyond the national level like the ICC. I wish to reaffirm my support for the ICC and the work it is doing in bringing to justice those who flout the rights of the individual in the most egregious manner and believe they can do so with impunity."*

The Chair of PGA's International Council, **Dr. Ruth Wijdenbosch, MP** (Suriname), applauded the decision of the Executive in St. Lucia and called for its Parliament *"to promptly deliberate on the necessary legislation to fully implement the Rome Statute obligations into national law, including the incorporation of international crimes into domestic criminal law and of procedures to effectively cooperate with the Court and other States in the fight against impunity"*. The Surinamese Legislator concluded by observing that *"PGA will continue to partner with the efforts of other actors, starting with organised civil society, the Assembly of States Parties, the CARICOM, the Commonwealth and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, to ensure that the entire region fulfils its commitment for the Rule of Law and Human Rights"*.

In May 2010, the PGA legal team had the opportunity to cooperate with the European Union in a coordinated effort to provide technical support to the Government of Saint Lucia on the matter of ratification of the treaty.

**About PGA:**

Parliamentarians for Global Action is a network of more than 1300 members of parliament from all regions of the world who, in their individual capacity, have pledged to mobilize political will in favour of the establishment, effective and complementary operation of an independent ICC. Members of PGA have contributed to 68 of the 113 ratifications or accession to the Rome Statute to date. 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, Germany, The Netherlands, and Switzerland, as well as core support from Denmark, Sweden, Nigeria and The Hague Municipality.