



PGA UN NEWSLETTER

February 2011

SUMMARY

Africa remains front and center of the work of the UN in February 2011. PGA's initiatives in this continent compliment shared UN/PGA objectives in this region of the world.

1. Security Council Resolution 1968 (2011) of 16 February, 2011 on Cote d'Ivoire

The UN Security Council adopted a resolution extending the temporary re-deployment of certain troops from UNMIL to UNOCI in Cote D'Ivoire.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37550&Cr=ivoire&Cr1=>

PGA held a Regional Roundtable Discussion on the Implementation of the Rome Statute of the ICC in the Joint Legislative Chamber of Liberia in Monrovia on 9 February, 2011. Two MPs from Cote d'Ivoire participated in this Roundtable Discussion. Several PGA Members from Mali, Guinea and Senegal, also participating in this event, reached out to both MPs from Cote d'Ivoire, offering, if deemed helpful, to explore the possibility of a PGA MP Delegation to Cote d'Ivoire in the near future to explore possible ways out of the current political impasse in that country. For further information on PGA's RTD in Liberia, please click here:

http://www.pgaction.org/ICC_Liberia_2011.html

2. Security Council High Level Debate on Linkages between Poverty, Development and Conflict

The UN Security Council held a day long debate in which was stressed the need to take into account the economic and social dimensions of conflict, in addition to the political factors of maintaining international peace and security.

Opening the debate, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: "Recent events around the world are a sharp reminder of the need for political stability to be anchored in peace, opportunity, decent standards of living and the consent of the governed." He noted that 9 of 10 countries with the lowest human development indicators had experienced conflict within the last 20 years. Inequality, weak institutions, youth unemployment, drug trafficking could all contribute to instability, he added.

Addressing the roots of conflict, he said equitable sharing of wealth, better access to agricultural lands, as well as strengthening governance and justice could all contribute to stability. He outlined United Nations efforts to act on those insights in recent years, saying that, "in short, conclusive development on the basis of consensus and consultation is perhaps the most effective route to diminishing the risks of conflict and enabling long-term stability".

For further information, please click on this link:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37519&Cr=security&Cr1=development>

The Chair of PGA's UN Committee also participated actively in this event:

Ambassador Jorge Arguello (Argentina) said the idea of “sensitive interdependence” between security and development was not new, and it was therefore evident that the goal was not for the Security Council to take over the responsibility of United Nations bodies dealing with development. Instead, the key was to consider ways in which the Council could contemplate the issue of development when making decisions relating to international peace and security, in order to make those decisions more effective, he explained. To that end, it was necessary to improve the Council's working methods and its relationship with the General Assembly. He said the integrated planning of peacekeeping missions could reduce the time during which troops were on the ground and mitigate the risk of recurring conflict due to factors related to the lack of development. In that light, Argentina and Peru were implementing a joint project to establish a combined military engineering company for deployment with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) with the aim of broadening the Haitian people's access to clean water and implementing road projects, he said. Peacebuilding was a “mediator between the maintenance of peace and sustainable development in the aftermath of a conflict”, he said, adding that sustainable peacebuilding therefore required an integrated approach that strengthened coherence among political, security, development, human rights and rule-of-law activities.

The Presidential Statement adopted at this Security Council debate also included the following line:

The Council affirms that sustainable peace and development cannot be achieved without the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, and underlines that women must be included as active participants in all stages of peacebuilding, peace agreements and development programmes.

To the extent that PGA continues to be actively involved in promoting gender equality through its different programmes, this language is particularly welcome.

3. The situation in Bahrain

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon issued a Statement on the unraveling situation in Bahrain, calling for restraint and respect for basic human rights.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/middle-east/UN-Chief-Deeply-Troubled-by-Bahrain-Violence-116414659.html>

PGA has also issued its own Statement

<http://www.pgaction.org/uploadedfiles/bahrain%20sptlght1.pdf>