



Parliamentarians for Global Action

PGA UN NEWSLETTER

April 2011

Towards the end of April, in **a report to the UN Security Council on the trade in SALW**, UNSG Ban Ki Moon observed that the capacity to trace small arms was key to preventing their diversion for illicit use. He indicated that the Security Council might wish to encourage States to strengthen their tracing capacity and to enhance international cooperation regarding tracing in these contexts, including with the United Nations. In his recommendations to the Council, Mr. Ban stated that in post-conflict weapons collection programmes, weapons should be recorded in sufficient detail to ensure accountability and to facilitate their tracing in the event of diversion. He noted that the International Small Arms Control Standards currently being developed by the UN would provide practical guidance on the appropriate collection and record keeping of small weapons gathered in post-conflict environments.

This report is of particular relevance to **PGA's Peace & Democracy Programme** in the context of its ongoing advocacy work in support of improved regulation/controls of SALW and in support of an ATT

Bahrain, Syria, Libya and Sri Lanka have been the main country focal points of attention of the UN during the month of April 2011. In the case of Syria the UN SG has expressed serious concern at the unraveling situation on the ground. The UN Human Rights Council is to hold a special session to discuss further the situation in Syria. UNSG Ban Ki Moon also received a Report from the Panel he set up to examine/investigate what happened in Sri Lanka in the closing stages of the civil war in that country two years ago. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has urged further probes into the allegations contained in the Report concerning possible war crimes committed in Sri Lanka during this period. She has similarly, during the course of the month of April, urged further investigations into alleged war crimes committed during the ongoing civil war taking place in Libya. A UN Human Rights Panel has traveled to Libya at the end of April for this purpose (and the ICC has stated it is carrying out preliminary investigations, as per the request from the UN SC in March 2011). The UN SG has, during the month of April, also called for restraint and dialogue in Bahrain where the situation continues to be highly volatile and disturbing.

The UN Security Council adopted three Resolutions – one pertaining to and addressing the issue of Somalia and Piracy the second related to extending the UN Mission in Western Somalia (MINURSO) for another year and the third an extension of the UN peacekeeping force in Sudan.

The UN Security Council issued two Presidential Statements – one pertaining to Haiti and the need to consolidate and strengthen the process of recovery in that country – the other on Sudan, reaffirming its support for the CPA and calling on the government to refrain from certain repressive tactics.

PGA's International Law & Human Rights Programme, while not actively involved or seized of the situations in Bahrain, Syria, Libya and Sri Lanka, nevertheless is monitoring events closely there, as being of general interest to the Programme's sphere of activities.

Also in April, the UN Security Council declined a request by the Kenyan Government for the Security Council to seek deferral of the prosecution of 6 Kenyan Nationals currently before the ICC

To the extent that **PGA's International Law & Human Rights Programme** would not be supportive of any such request until such time as there existed real evidence of viable/genuine national trials as a feasible alternative, this decision by the Security Council is one that **PGA** would not have any particular objection to.

The 44th Commission on Population and Development (CPD) took place on April 11-15, 2011 at the UN. This year's theme was "Fertility, Reproductive Health and Development".

More information can be reviewed at: <http://www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2011/cpd44.htm>

This is of particular interest to all PGA Members involved with our **Sustainable Development, Health & Population Programme**.

Earth Day took place on April 22, 2011 and the UN marked the occasion a few days earlier with an important presentation made by the Deputy Secretary General.

More information on this can be reviewed at:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38157&Cr=sustainable+development&Cr1=>

This is also of relevance to all PGA Members involved with our Sustainable Development, Health & Population Programme as PGA is organizing a green energy side-meeting in May 2011 at the 19th Commission on sustainable Development (CSD).
