



PGA UN NEWSLETTER

May 2011

1. Cote d'Ivoire

On 28th April 2011, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1980 (2011) on **Cote d'Ivoire** wherein it, inter alia,

“...condemned all violence committed against civilians, including women, children, internally displaced persons and foreign nationals, and other violations and abuses of human rights, in particular enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, killing and maiming of children and rapes and other forms of sexual violence and stressing that the perpetrators must be brought to justice...”

In early May 2011, President Ouattara wrote to the Chief Prosecutor of the ICC requesting him to open investigations and a few days later, the Chief Prosecutor announced that he had done so.

These are all developments of key importance to PGA's International Law & Human Rights Programme which has played a prominent role on accountability in Cote d'Ivoire, including in persuading authorities to accept the jurisdiction of the Court in an ad hoc manner (Article 12 (3) of Rome Statute) a number of years ago.

In the same resolution, the UNSC also affirmed that:

“...Urge[d] all illegal armed combatants to lay down their arms immediately, encourages UNOCI, within its mandate and limits of capabilities and areas of deployment, to continue to assist the Ivorian Government in collecting and storing those arms and further calls upon the Ivorian authorities, including the National Commission to fight against the Proliferation and Illicit Traffic of Small Arms and Light Weapons, to ensure that those arms are neutralized or not illegally disseminated, in accordance with the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and light Weapons, their Ammunition and other Associated Materials;

PGA's Peace & Democracy Programme is heavily involved in the global efforts to address the illicit traffic in SALW and also is actively supporting the Arms Trade Treaty currently being negotiated at the UN.

2. Sudan

On 17th May 2011, the UN Security Council adopted SCR 1982 (2011) determining that the situation in Sudan continues to constitute a threat to peace and security in the region and requested the Panel of Experts to provide a Final report 30 days before the expiration of their mandate.

This determination by the UN Security Council has subsequently proven to be correct with very troubling reports at the end of May regarding the Sudanese government's activities in the disputed region of Abyei which appear to have all the hallmarks of ethnic cleansing similar to what transpired in Darfur.

This is of interest/relevance to PGA's International Law & Human Rights Programme, given the still pending ICC indictments pending against President Al Bashir and others in Sudan.

3. DRC

On 18th May 2011, the UN Security Council issued a Presidential Statement on the situation in the DRC

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/PRST/2011/11&Lang=E

In the Presidential Statement, the Council, inter alia:

"...Note[d] the interest of the Congolese authorities for establishing specialized mixed courts to address serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, complemented by their existing cooperation with the International Criminal Court. It calls upon MONUSCO and other relevant international actors to support the efforts of the Congolese government in these fields, and to assist in the restoration of basic services, including access to justice....."

This is of interest/relevance to the PGA International Law & Human Rights Programme which is heavily involved with the DRC. So long as no effort is being made, indirectly, to 'muddy the waters' or diminish the role of the ICC by this text, general cooperation between the DRC and ICC, as it currently exists, is to be encouraged.

4. Grenada

On 19 May, 2011, Grenada deposited its Instrument of Accession to the Rome Statute of the ICC with the UN Treaty Office in New York. In so doing, it became the 115th State Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Further information on this can be found on PGA's Press Release at:

http://www.pgaction.org/uploadedfiles/ICC%20Ratification%20Grenada_19%20May%2011_FINAL.pdf

5. UN Commission on Sustainable Development – 19th Session – May 2011

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development had its 19th Session (2 week meetings) at UN Headquarters in New York in May 2011. The consequences of unsustainable consumption and production on the world eco-systems were deliberated on at length in these meetings. While progress was made on key issues such as mining, transport and waste management, agreement on an outcome document proved to be elusive. Government ministers from about 50 countries attended the high-level segment, which is designed to give impetus to preparations for the Fourth UN Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, which will be held in the Brazilian city in June 2012.

Further information may be found at:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38322&Cr=sustainable+development&Cr1>

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2011/envdev1213.doc.htm>

In parallel with these meetings of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, PGA held a Parliamentary Side Event on "Non - nuclear Green Energy: Prospects for Sustaining Growth"

Further information on this Side Meeting may be found at:

http://www.pgaction.org/19th_CSD_Side_Meeting_PGA.html