



Parliamentarians for Global Action

For Immediate Release:

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PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE MALDIVES ADOPT LEGISLATION TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

Parliamentarians for Global Action welcome the Maldives as the prospective 116th State Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC

MALE/THE HAGUE, 14 June 2011 – Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) congratulates the Parliament of the Maldives for adopting today, with an overwhelming majority of 61 out of 65 legislators present and voting, the Bill that clears the path for their accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). On 28 April 2011, a bipartisan vote to approve this ICC Accession Bill took place in the Committee on National Security thanks to the action of PGA members, who successfully mobilized a parliamentary majority in support of this piece of legislation submitted by the Government and not approved by Parliament in October 2010.

This vote is another component in the worldwide efforts of PGA to promote the universality and the effectiveness of the Rome Statute system. The decision of the Parliament of Maldives, which should be promptly followed by the completion of the process by the Government will ensure that Asia, an underrepresented region in the ICC system, marks another advancement in the global efforts to end impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Mr. Ahmed Mahloof, MP, PGA member and leader of the Youth Wing (DRP, opposition, largest parliamentary group) who served as Rapporteur on the ICC Bill today, stated that *“it has been a great challenge to promote the approval of the ICC Accession Bill in our Parliament, but we have succeeded by modifying misperceptions and misunderstanding that had halted this decision-making process. Our nation will now be united and active in the global endeavour to join the ICC in the fight against impunity wherever the most serious international crimes are committed”*, said the lawmaker who steered the ICC campaign in the Maldives upon his return from the Kuala Lumpur’s Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Consultation on the Universality of the Rome Statute of the ICC, organized by PGA in the Parliament of Malaysia on 8-10 March 2011.

Malaysian PGA member **Mr. M. Kula Segaran**, MP welcomed this development and stressed that Malaysia will not be far behind. *“The Government of Malaysia announced that between this month of June and July 2011 our country will deposit its instrument of accession to the Rome Statute of the ICC, in line with the commitment of the Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. M. Nazri, and other high officials at the Asia-Pacific Consultation that we hosted at the Parliament in Kuala Lumpur”*, Mr. Kula Segaran recalled. This gathering – addressed by the President of the ICC, Judge S.H. Song, and in which many legislators from Malaysia and the Asia Pacific region participated, including former Maldives’ Attorney General, Mr. Ahmed Sawad – has proved to be a genuine catalyst for improving ICC-support in the region.

PGA Board Member and Assistant Speaker of New Zealand’s House of Representatives, **Mr. Ross Robertson**, MP indicated that *“joining the ICC is a triumph for democracy and the Rule of Law. The Maldives will soon be a member of the group of law-abiding nations that are protected by the ICC.”* Mr. Robertson reiterated the unwavering commitment of PGA Members to the goals of justice, transparency and accountability, which have found a unique benchmark for progress in the Hague-based ICC.

Similar support for the Rome Statute system was firmly expressed by **Dr. Lily Wahid**, MP (Indonesia) a member of PGA who is promoting ICC ratification in the 4th most populated country of the world. Dr. Wahid affirmed

that “Indonesia should follow the good example of the Maldives, Malaysia and the Philippines in pushing forward towards the final stages of joining the ICC and finally accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC: This Court is a guarantee of prevention of future crimes and respect of fundamental human rights under the Rule of Law. The Indonesian legal order will surely benefit from the full implementation of the Rome Statute’s standards and norms in our domestic system”, Dr. Wahid concluded.

About PGA:

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is a network of members of parliament from all regions of the world who, in their individual capacity, have pledged to mobilize political will in favor of the establishment, effective and complementary operation of an independent ICC. Members of PGA have contributed to 69 of the 115 ratifications of, or accession to the Rome Statute to date. PGA is a member of the Steering Committee of the Coalition for the ICC. The *PGA Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of the Rome Statute system* receives support from the European Commission (EC) and the Governments of Belgium, The Netherlands, and Switzerland.