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## PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

### THE MALDIVES ACCEDES TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE ICC BECOMING 118<sup>TH</sup> STATE PARTY

#### *The Rome Statute of the ICC and the Kampala Amendments to be Highlighted in the 2011 UN Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation*

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*New York/The Hague, September 21, 2011* – Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is delighted to recognize that the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Kampala Review Conference Amendments of the Statute are amongst the treaties that have been specifically highlighted for the **2011 UN Treaty Event**, taking place during the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

**The Maldives** has taken advantage of this occasion to accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC, thus becoming the 118<sup>th</sup> State within the ICC system and the 18<sup>th</sup> from the Asia-Pacific region. PGA wishes to congratulate the Government of the Maldives in taking this historic step as well as to acknowledge the important support for this process extended by the former Attorney General of The Maldives, Mr. Ahmed Sawat. PGA Member Mr. Ahmed Mahloof, MP – former head of the youth wing of Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) and spokesperson of the newly formed Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) – played a decisive role in the process that led to this development: *"I decided to take swift action on the ICC when our bipartisan delegation participated in the PGA Asia Pacific Consultations held in Kuala Lumpur in March 2011. Upon our return from Malaysia, I persuaded my colleagues from the National Security Committee to de-block the ICC Accession Act, and the Committee approved it with multi-partisan support on 28 April 2011"*, Mr. Mahloof declared. His parliamentary colleagues from the opposition concurred with the Government in the Plenary adoption of the ICC Bill on 14 June 2011, thus paving the way for today's accession. PGA has worked in the Maldives since 1995 when it organized a workshop on conflict resolution hosted by the Prime Minister and attended by high-level MPs from 6 South Asian countries.

PGA anticipates that other significant, positive developments for international justice may take place during this 11<sup>th</sup> UN Treaty Event, including the first ratification of the Kampala Review Conference amendments on war crimes by **San Marino** and the ratification of the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC) by **Malta** and **Chile**. In the latter country, PGA International Councilor **Senator Carlos Cantero**, who steered the bipartisan process that led to ratification in 2009, affirmed that *"Chile is demonstrating its fully-fledged participation in the Rome Statute system aimed at putting an end to impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern. We included an ICC-clause in our Constitution, incorporated international crimes into our Codes and ratified the Statute: Now, we are entering into the APIC and we are ready to support a legislative initiative from the Executive to ensure effective cooperation with the Court"*, the independent Senator announced from Valparaíso.

PGA remains committed to promoting the universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute system, which is based on a principle of burden-sharing between international justice and domestic efforts to combat impunity, in all regions of the world.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE UN TREATY EVENT ([HTTP://TREATIES.UN.ORG/HOME.ASPX](http://treaties.un.org/home.aspx))

In September 2000, the United Nations invited world leaders attending the landmark Millennium Summit to enter into a wide range of major international treaties. Since then, the Treaty Event has been held annually and resulted in 1549 new signatures, ratifications, acceptances, accessions and other treaty-related actions.

**Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**, in his recent letter of invitation to UN Member States, stated that the 2011 Treaty Event *"provides a distinct opportunity for States to demonstrate their continuing commitment to the central role of the rule of law at the international and national levels."*

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