



PGA UN NEWSLETTER

September 2011

Summary

September is traditionally the 'high level' month at the UN where Heads of State or Foreign Ministers from all UN Member States address the UN General Assembly. This year, many have highlighted the importance of no impunity, the need to put in place a global arms trade treaty and the ongoing need to improve the rights of women and girls in the world. These are all core areas of concern in PGA's 3 Programmes.

These 3 areas of no impunity, addressing the supply of small arms/availability of weapons and gender rights - were also dwelt upon in 3 important resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council during the month of September 2011.

1. Libya

On 16 September 2011, the UN Security Council passed resolution 2009 which created, inter alia, a UN support mission in Libya. However, the resolution was of particular interest and relevance to PGA in the context of all 3 of its Programmes, on account of the following provisions contained therein:

".....Recalling its decision to refer the situation in Libya to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, and the importance of cooperation for ensuring that those responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law or complicit in attacks targeting the civilian population are held accountable,

"Strongly condemning all violations of applicable human rights and international humanitarian law, including violations that involve unlawful killings, other uses of violence against civilians, or arbitrary arrests and detentions, in particular of African migrants and members of minority communities,

"Also strongly condemning sexual violence, particularly against women and girls, and the recruitment and use of children in situations of armed conflict in contravention of applicable international law,

...."3. Emphasises the importance of promoting the equal and full participation of women and minority communities in the discussions related to the political process in the post-conflict phase;

..."5. Encourages the National Transitional Council to implement its plans to:

(b) prevent further abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and to put an end to impunity;

.....

(e) prevent the proliferation of man-portable surface-to-air missiles, small arms and light weapons, and meet Libya's arms control and non-proliferation obligations under international law;...."

Further information on this resolution can be viewed at:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sc10389.doc.htm>

2. Liberia

On 16 September 2011, the UN Security Council resolution adopted Resolution 2008 concerning Liberia. **The following provisions of that resolution are of relevance in the context of the work of all of PGA's 3 Programmes**

“...Stressing that the successful holding of timely, credible, inclusive and peaceful elections, in accordance with the constitution and applicable international standards, is a key condition for the consolidation of democracy, national reconciliation and restoration of a stable, peaceful and secure environment in which stabilization and socio-economic development can progress in Liberia, and emphasizing the need to promote strong voter turnout and participation of women in the electoral process.”

“Welcoming the Peacebuilding Commission’s contribution to security sector reform, rule of law and national reconciliation, and noting that challenges still remain in these key areas,

“Recognizing the significant challenges that remain across all sectors, including continuing problems with violent crime, and recognizing that the instability in Côte d’Ivoire continues to pose cross-border security challenges for Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire,

“Noting with concern the threats to subregional stability, including to Liberia, in particular posed by illicit drug trafficking, organized crime, and illicit arms,....”

Further information on this resolution may be viewed at:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sc10388.doc.htm>

3. Sierra Leone

On 14 September 2011, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2005 on Sierra Leone. **The following provisions of that resolution are of relevance to all 3 of PGA's Programmes.**

....“l. Reiterating its appreciation for the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, stressing the importance of the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor by the Court, welcoming the completion of all the other cases, as well as effective outreach on the trials at the local level, reiterating its expectation that the Court will finish its work as soon as possible, including any contempt cases, and calling upon Member States to contribute generously to the Court and the Residual Special Court,

“m. Recalling that the responsibility for controlling the circulation of small arms and light weapons within the territory of Sierra Leone and between Sierra Leone and neighbouring States rests with the relevant governmental authorities in accordance with the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons of 2006, and welcoming the launch of the national action plan on Small Arms,

“11. Commends the Government for recognizing the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, reaffirms the importance of appropriate gender expertise and training in missions mandated by the Security Council in accordance with resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1889 (2009), underscores that the Government should continue its effort in addressing sexual and gender-based violence, in accordance with resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010) and encourages UNIPSIL to continue to work with the Government of Sierra Leone in this area;....”

Further information on this resolution can be viewed at:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2011/sc10381.doc.htm>