

PGA'S 33rd ANNUAL FORUM
“The Impact of Armed Violence: Issues, Challenges and Parliamentary Solutions”
Colombo, Sri Lanka

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From October 28-30, 2011, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) held its 33rd Annual Forum in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on the theme of *“The Impact of Armed Violence: Issues, Challenges and Parliamentary Solutions.”*

Over 150 Parliamentarians participated in the 2011 Annual Forum, along with representatives from several regional and international organizations, academia and civil society.

The Annual Forum was structured in panels covering the following issues:

Panel I:	The Impact of Armed Violence: Health and Education Dimension
Panel II:	The Impact of Armed Violence on Development: The Gender Dimension
Panel III:	The Impact of Armed Violence on Development: The Security Dimension
Panel IV:	The Impact of Armed Violence on Development: The Security Dimension II
Panel V:	The Impact of Armed Violence on Development: The Trade and Investment Dimension
Closing Session:	Closing Remarks

The Forum also benefited from keynote addresses by Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka; Hon. Dr. Ruth Wijdenbosch, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Suriname and PGA's Acting President; Mr. Subinay Nandy, UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in Sri Lanka and Ms. Savitri Goonesekere, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Colombo. The Vote of Thanks was offered by Mr. John Amaratunga, Chief Whip of the Opposition in the Parliament of Sri Lanka.

Forum participants recognized that armed violence as well as the illicit weapons trade pose a threat to global security and severely hinder the development process in some of the world's least developed countries. Participants from developing and developed countries alike acknowledged that the broader impact of armed violence is not confined to just those countries en route to development, but also donor countries. They also made an important contribution vis-a-vis parliamentary input into the ongoing negotiations of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). While many States have repeatedly said that the impact on sustainable development should be taken into consideration when arms transfers are being considered to a particular State or region, other States continue to dispute that view

and believe that the linkages between violence on the one hand and delayed or suppressed development on the other, are less than compelling.

Armed violence in all of its different forms whether it is armed conflict, violent criminality or state sponsored violence destabilize governments and undermine national security. For countries on the way to development, instances of armed violence serve to cripple already fragile infrastructures and endanger national resources. Participants acknowledged these bouts of armed violence are fueled by the inadequate regulation of small arms and light weapons. Nevertheless, long after armed violence is over, lasting negative repercussions impact economic output, social interactions, national and regional infrastructure as well as health and education resources. Furthermore, armed violence causes insecurity, which deters foreign investment and weakens a country's economic prospects.

2. FORUM OUTCOMES

Goals

- To examine the complex and multi-faceted relationship that exists between the curtailment of armed violence on the one hand and enhancing the prospects for sustainable development and economic prosperity on the other.
- To explore the ramifications of armed violence on both developing and developed countries.

Outcomes:

- Adoption of the *Colombo Plan of Action*, which outlines the consensus-based commitments made by Parliamentarians to take certain actions/initiatives within a specific time frame.
- Increased awareness among parliamentarians of the importance of issues related to the perilous affects of armed violence and the illicit trade in conventional arms.
- Acknowledgement of the illicit arms trade as a social ill that threatens peace and democracy in both developed and developing countries everywhere.
- Acknowledgement of the need for effective policies and legislation, and strategies to address and to combat the complex issues surrounding armed violence.
- Promotion of strengthened partnerships between governments and the relevant United Nations and civil society organizations to more effectively and strategically address issues of armed violence.
- Promotion of partnerships internationally and regionally to address common concerns related to armed violence and the illicit weapons trade.
- Promotion of adoption of appropriate legislation and advocacy towards governments to sign and become party to relevant international conventions and treaties.
- Reaffirmation of the importance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and the Millennium Development Goals.

- Promotion of strengthened parliamentary capacity to address the social ills that the illicit weapons trade and armed violence incite.
- Affirmation of the significance of political will and leadership not only to address the negative effects of armed violence but also to counteract their root causes before they escalate to armed violence.
- Productive networking sessions solidified new relationships among parliamentarians that will facilitate international communication and coordination going forward.

Colombo Plan of Action

***Recognizing that* armed violence is a scourge that devastates the lives of so many in developing and developed countries alike around the world in many different ways, directly and indirectly, and exacts a heavy toll on frequently scarce national resources**

***Recognizing also that* meaningful and sustainable development in numerous countries around the world is greatly hindered and delayed by poor regulation and control of firearms and weapons, domestically, regionally and internationally**

***Acknowledging that* the root causes of armed violence are many, complex and interrelated and must be addressed systematically and holistically**

***Acknowledging also that* accountability for crimes of armed violence is a critically important factor in deterring the commission of such crimes in the future**

***Recognizing that* cruel, oppressive and corrupt governance is often a catalyst in generating the environment and conditions that create situations of conflict**

***Mindful that* we, as Parliamentarians, have a responsibility to protect, to the best of our abilities, the people of our countries as well as the wider interests of the international community:**

***Reaffirming* the importance of Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and the Millennium Development Goals**

We undertake to:

1) Promptly follow up with relevant government ministries and agencies, so that they are aware of the terrible impact that inadequate regulation and enforcement of firearms legislation has on public safety and the health, education, trade and the security sectors as well as the impact it has on human rights, in particular those of women and children.

2) Analyze current national firearms regulation and legislation in our respective countries with a view to bringing them into greater conformity with the United Nations Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and also explore the feasibility of weapon surrender programmes in our respective countries

3) Review the effectiveness of the implementation and enforcement of national legislation aimed at curbing armed violence in general and draft or amend legislation and regulations, as needed, to bring about necessary improvements.

4) Urge countries that manufacture, sell or supply small arms and light weapons to implement the UN Programme of Action on the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects.

5) Working with Civil Society, encourage our colleagues in parliament to sign the Global Parliamentary Declaration on the Arms Trade Treaty and also call upon our governments to participate vigorously in favour of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and ensure that members of parliament, as key stakeholders, are regularly consulted by the Executive on all policy decisions in this area

6) Where appropriate, and in those countries where governments allocate significant budgetary appropriations for overseas development cooperation:

a) Highlight the importance of the mainstreaming of security sector reform in international cooperation.

b) Urge governments in development aid beneficiary countries to monitor and encourage improvements in protecting the safety and security of civilians in such countries

7) Exercise our parliamentary oversight and legislative prerogatives to ensure that proposed government legislation policy, action and budgetary expenditures in connection therewith, aimed at mitigating armed violence is always conducted in a transparent and effective manner, in all our countries.

8) Encourage governments in educating and awareness building measures among citizens regarding the importance of peaceful means in bringing about changes and addressing grievances

9) Urge all PGA Members to raise awareness of this Plan of Action among their colleagues and their constituents.

10) Report, as national groups of PGA and/or individually, to the PGA Secretariat, within 3 months on steps and actions we have taken pursuant to this Plan of Action.

3. PANEL DISCUSSIONS

INAUGURATION

Honorable Nimal S. De Silva called to order the 33rd Annual Forum shortly after 4 p.m. on Friday October 28, 2011

Hon. Ruth Wijdenbosch, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Suriname, PGA Acting President

- Welcomed distinguished guests and acknowledged members of the head table: Honorable Nimal S. De Silva, Ambassador H.M.G.S. Palihakkara, Mr. Subinay Nandy, Honorable Ranil Wickremasinghe, Ms. Shazia Rafi, Honorable Mark Pritchard, Ms. Savitri Goonesekere, Honorable Chamal Rajapaksa and Honorable John Amaratunga.
- Established armed violence as an issue of genuine global concern because in its various forms affects the inhabitants of the villages, towns and cities of *all* the countries from which participants hail.
- Stressed the need for an end to impunity, for global accountability and for a clean global environment.
- Encouraged fellow parliamentarians to combat armed violence for their electorate who may not always be able to fight these issues themselves. Dispelled the myth that these issues were only North or South or developed or developing country concerns. Affirmed that the global community has a vested interest in thoroughly addressing this issue with a sense of urgency.
- Stated that there is “room for improvement” in the follow-up that PGA does after its Annual Forum. Urged participants to pick at least one initiative from the Colombo Plan of Action to be adopted at the end of the Forum and follow through with it before the end of 2011.
- Highlighted the Arms Trade Treaty and encouraged participants to sign the Global Parliamentary Declaration in support of the ATT.
- Thanked the Sri Lankan Parliament, the Sri Lanka government, SIDA, DANIDA, UNFPA, SDC and the Stewart Mott Foundation for their generous support to realize this Forum.

Honorable Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Parliament, Parliament of Sri Lanka

- Welcomed participants to Sri Lanka and expressed his delight that Sri Lanka was chosen as the host of this year’s Forum.

- Extended a warm welcome and greetings to forum participants on behalf of His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who unfortunately was away at the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Perth, Australia.
- Reminded participants that as representatives elected by the people, they reflect the hopes of millions of people of diverse cultures and traditions.
- Recognized the difficulty of delivering the expectations of their voters through practical and tangible measures given the nature of regional, national and global politics; fiscal and economic policy as well as culture and tradition. Despite these difficulties, parliamentarians continue to strive to deliver on the demands placed on them by voters.
- Cited peace, democracy, rule of law, equal opportunity and resolution of global development issues as reasons parliamentarians were in attendance and operating outside of the voter requests. Global issues that affect all in attendance could not be solved within the confines of domestic borders. There needs to be an awareness of these issues and relevant initiatives at an international level.
- Acknowledged Sri Lanka's recent history with armed violence. Further discussed the terrorist group, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and their intense violence against sectors of Sri Lanka.
- LTTE caused destruction and violence in many parts of Sri Lanka. They terrorized the civilian population through various suicide bombings and attacks against economic and political targets. They recruited and trained youth and women to carry out these suicide missions for them. Sri Lanka now seeks to rehabilitate these women and children. Consequently, the theme of this year's Forum is very relevant.
- There is an urgent and vital need for international cooperation to rid the world of armed conflict and terrorism. It is time to speak out against these issues and work with our governments to put an end to them.
- Expressed a desire that participants would explore Sri Lanka and discover what the country has to offer.

Mr. Subinay Nandy, United Nations Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative

- Observed that every year more than 740,000 people die as a result of armed conflict and large and small- scale criminal violence. A majority of these deaths—490,000—occur in non-conflict settings. Noted that the total cost of armed violence in “non-conflict” countries alone is \$163 billion.
- Proposed that parliamentarians address the root causes of violence giving reason to why people take up weapons or youth search for a sense of belonging in an armed militia group or gang.
- Established armed violence as both a cause and consequence of under-development. Cited the Arab Spring as an example of how exclusion from development opportunities triggered or catalyzed armed violence.
- Proposed that in the future Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and human rights principles to be considered interdependently and mutually reinforcing. Human rights can be used as a tool for enforcing the MDGs. This approach can help resolve

conflict between different stakeholders in development and properly address needs of marginalized groups. Furthermore, this method would focus on the development of human capital, which requires particular attention in a post-war country like Sri Lanka.

- Urged parliaments to set up the framework for an inclusive society where multiple actors have equal access to the country's resources. By taking a rights-based approach in post conflict society, parliamentarians can make an invaluable contribution to the realization of both human rights and national developmental goals.

Ms. Savitri Goonesekere, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Colombo

- Introduced Sri Lanka in an ancient chronicle that described Sri Lanka as “the land without sorrow.” Contrasted this chronicle with the legacy of internal conflict that bound the country in war during the past 30 years.
- Highlighted the central role of parliamentarians in enabling development once armed conflict has ceased. Parliamentarians must recognize that economic growth and stability must be achieved while also respecting the rule of law and the fundamental freedoms and rights of the people.
- Proposed that PGA assist parliamentarians in creating awareness of these norms, commitments, expectations and responsibilities of good government.
- Observed that the end of a war provides an opportunity for parliamentarians and the government at large to use an inclusive human rights-based approach to development that gives central importance to eliminating the inequalities and disadvantages that spawn violence and conflict
- Discussed the under-representation of women in decision-making positions despite various conventions and commitments that address these inequalities. Highlighted special disadvantages experienced by women and girls during time of conflict like gender-based violence, forced conscription as well as arranged and early marriage.
- Cited the various commitments already in place like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW) adopted in 1979 and Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820 and 1612. Encouraged PGA to ensure member countries are implementing these international commitments on a national level.
- Stressed the importance of allocating necessary funding to women's initiatives. Also stressed the importance of law reform that enables women to have claims to their property especially after conflict when resources are especially strained.
- Stated “The concept of parliamentary sovereignty in a democracy is based on the sovereignty of the people. Yet it is often misinterpreted to mean the unlimited power of parliamentarians, eroding the environment for government that is accountable to the people.” Further encouraged parliamentarians to use their power ethically.

Honorable John Amaratunga, Chief Opposition Whip concluded the inauguration ceremony with a Vote of Thanks welcoming participants.

PANEL I – The Impact of Armed Violence: Health and Education Dimension

Chairperson: Dr. Alain Destexhe, MP, Belgium

- Hon. Charity Ngilu, Minister of Water and Irrigation, Kenya
- Mr. Ibrahim Sorie, MP, Sierra Leone
- Ms. Minou Tavárez, MP, Dominican Republic
- Ms. Elsa Papademetriou, MP, Greece
- Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle, MP, Sri Lanka
- Ms. Christiane Agboton Johnson, Deputy Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

The first panel took place on October 29, 2011 and provided an overview of the impact of armed violence on Health and Education. The panelists noted that while the causes of armed violence vary depending on the conflict, armed violence systematically disintegrates health and education infrastructures. It destabilizes affected areas and undermines the foundations of these two social structures. With increased armed violence, students and teachers are absent from school. Students—both male and female—become active participants in the war. Children and families become displaced and lack stability. Consequently, the number of refugees and internally-displaced persons significantly increases. Furthermore, physical school structures become targets for combatants. In terms of health, conflict frequently cripples the basic services on which health providers rely such as water supplies, electricity and public roads. Thus, health services slow down or stop completely. Panelists reflected on these issues using their own countries as case studies and presented some possible solutions.

SUMMARY OF PANELIST PRESENTATIONS: HEALTH AND EDUCATION DIMENSION

Hon. Charity Ngilu, Minister of Water and Irrigation, Kenya

- Established that when countries experience armed violence they not only pose a threat to their own countries' welfare but also to the region's stability as a whole. For example, Kenya has experienced relative peace but countries that have had political instability like Somalia, Uganda and Sudan surround it. Kenya has even experienced kidnappings along its border with Somalia.
- Discussed different factors that cause armed violence including lack of democracy, oppression of dissident opinion, inequitable land distribution and access to land resources being just a few. Ascertained the importance of addressing these root causes before they escalate to armed violence.
- Described how school-age children become active combatants in the war. Women and girls become tools of war. Gender-based violence runs rampant and becomes a weapon of war. Women trade sex for their security and that of their families. The

amount of sexually transmitted diseases as well as non- communicable diseases increases significantly.

- Stated how refugee camps and camps for displaced persons become hotbeds for disease, rebel attacks and insecurity of neighboring regions. After violence has ceased, it takes a considerable amount of time to re-establish displaced persons and close these camps.
- Recognized that health resources decrease or stop completely.
- Asserted that major forms of gross domestic product (GDP) such as tourism and the export of crops come to a halt. Crops that were once grown domestically are now imported leading to the significant increase of the cost of food. Access to food is cut dramatically.
- Cited that after acts of armed violence have taken place, root causes must be identified and solutions found. Countries must find a peaceful end through a democratic process, the American Red Cross could play a bigger role in reconstructing resources and wrongdoers must face justice in the International Criminal Court. In addition, people involved in the arms trade should be heavily punished and the illicit weapons trade should be considered a crime against humanity.

Mr. Ibrahim Sorie, MP, Sierra Leone

- Stated that armed violence has affected the country of Sierra Leone. The country descended into chaos about twenty years ago because of government corruption, bad governance, social exclusion and ethnic and regional marginalization.
- During the war, there was massive destruction of social, economic and political infrastructure.
- The war officially ended in 2002. The war is mostly contained but there are still flare-ups of conflict.
- Observed that because of the conflict, Sierra Leone experienced a brain drain.
- Concluded that to combat the harmful effects of armed violence in the future, Sierra Leone must put a premium on good governance.

Ms. Minou Tavárez, MP, Dominican Republic

- Stated that in Latin America, the increase in criminality generates an insecurity climate for citizens, which in turn is associated to distrust in public safety institutions and a high level of impunity and corruption. This situation encourages citizens to acquire weapons as a defense mechanism to protect themselves.
- Underlined that in Dominican Republic exists a high number of people illegally armed; rough estimates point to 340,000 people in a country with a population of less than 10 million.
- Observed that youth is especially vulnerable since, as a result of deteriorating conditions in the country, guns are seen as a source of power and pride.
- Stressed that acquiring small arms and weapons cannot be induced by the State's deficiencies in complying with its obligations to assure security for citizens.

- As parliamentarians, we are obliged to ensure that all decisions that we take focus on stopping poverty in our countries. Solutions to this global crisis involve improving the lives of those more vulnerable and transforming the world into one more humane.
- Concluded that parliamentarians should be aware that as decision makers, we are responsible to achieve development. And for this to be realized there is a need for security. “Without education or health, without the possibility to have access to decent food, housing and jobs, there cannot be security or development.”

Ms. Elsa Papademetriou, MP, Greece

- Asserted that the right to health is one of the fundamental human rights stated in many International Conventions or Declarations—the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the World Health Organization (WHO), The European Charter of the Council of Europe.
- Stated that public health is an investment to the benefit of humankind and good health improves collective and personal development.
- Cited a University of Wisconsin study where level of education was linked to a person’s health. Participants with higher levels of education were more likely to be in good health. She then concluded that education plays a key role on the direction of people’s behavior.
- Explored the link between health and education. Positive health lifestyles should be taught in schools so children learn them from a young age.
- Established that, during war, health and education infrastructures are completely undermined.
- Questioned fellow parliamentarians: “in an armed conflict, or in social and economic turmoil, how can we explain to our peoples why the military spending we vote for is far greater than what would be needed both for health and education of the countries involved?”
- Questioned humanitarian aid organizations: “in your lifesaving assistance, shouldn’t you include some funds for education? Isn’t it a shame to spare less than 2% for education services?”

Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle, MP, Sri Lanka

- During the Sri Lankan Civil War, children and women in affected areas became internally displaced persons.
- Stated that, during the war, girls were given in marriage at an early age for fear of recruitment in the war.
- Health resources worked as normal in rebel areas throughout the war. However, the highest maternal mortality rate was in a rebel-controlled area.
- Diseases like malaria increased in rebel-controlled areas.
- For children, behavioral and psychological problems persist and many have yet to be discovered.

Ms. Christiane Agboton Johnson, Deputy Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

- The fact that this theme was chosen demonstrates the acknowledgement that armed violence has an effect on the development of countries. Clarified that violence is not a fatality. It is possible to put an end to armed violence.
- There are laws and charters in place to protect those most affected by armed violence including the United Nations Charter, the Convention of the Rights of the Child, resolutions from the World Health Organization, those relating to women, and several United Nations studies on the Education of Disarmament. It is crucial that we reinforce these laws on the state, regional and international levels.
- Proposed possible solutions such as cooperation at all levels of government; establishment of strategic partnerships; contribution and funding of research relevant to disarmament; and the use of a holistic approach when addressing issues of armed violence. When it comes to issues of armed violence, security or development, we should consider them issues of human security.
- Stated that parliamentarians must act on resolutions that have already been created and ascertain whether their governments are conforming to these initiatives. If more issues need to be addressed, parliamentarians should create new legislation to fill the void.

Interactive Dialogue

Participants raised many relevant topics central to the issues of armed violence and development such as: the justification of disproportionate spending on arms procurement and development when many people are living in abject poverty; the threat of political conflict in Libya on neighboring countries; the role of youth gangs in armed conflict; and the role of arms developers and producers.

Minister Charity Ngilu notably stated: “For people in developing countries, we are not poor; we are suffering from the effects of poor leadership. It is not about poverty. It is about a small group of people who are living very well and not exploring ways to help all people in the country to make enough. Parliamentarians must come out and oppose anything that will not be beneficial to our people.” Mr. Sorie, MP from Sierra Leone, acknowledged the need for government accountability and a just rule of law. Ms. Papademetriou, MP from Greece, asserted that in order to address armed violence it is important to address as well social diseases like poverty. Furthermore, parliamentarians must do what is right for the people even if it is not a popular decision.

PANEL II – The Impact of Armed Violence on Development: The Gender Dimension

Chairperson: Ms. Marie Norden, MP, Sweden

- Mr. Jacob Oulanyah, MP, Uganda

- Mr. J.D. Seelam, MP, India
- Ms. Irena Naa Torshie Addo, MP, Ghana
- Ms. Rosy Senanayake, MP, Sri Lanka
- Mr. Coskun Çörüz, MP, The Netherlands
- Mr. Deepayan Basu Ray, Policy Adviser, Oxfam UK

Armed conflict is a highly gendered phenomenon. The way that the sexes experience and react to conflict varies greatly not only because of their traditional social roles but also because of the way that warfare has evolved throughout the 20th century. At the beginning of the 20th century, 90% of all victims in warfare were military. By the end of the 20th century, 90% of all victims were civilians. Women and girls constitute a majority of these civilians and must assume added responsibility while men fight. Additionally, gender-based violence has become a tool of war leaving the security of women further at risk. Many times, after armed violence has ended countries lack the necessary legal framework to protect the new widows and rehabilitate victims.

*SUMMARY OF PANELIST PRESENTATIONS:
THE GENDER DIMENSION*

Mr. Jacob Oulanyah, MP, Uganda

- Underlined the fundamental roles that women play in society as mothers, daughters and wives. Declared that he himself “as a man who loves his mother, wife and daughters, who are all women” feels obligated to address women’s issues and find positive solutions.
- Discussed the change in war today. During the First and Second World Wars 90% of casualties were military. Today, 90% of casualties are civilians. Many of the civilians and victims are women.
- Proposed that conflicts are imminent and will not be stopped. Highlighted the importance of ensuring that people engaging in war do not target civilians.
- Emphasized that the proper international and national commitments are in place but it is important to ensure that States abide by these commitments.
- Suggested that women and girls respond to and are affected by armed violence differently. It is critical to understand how they are affected by armed violence and how they respond when armed violence breaks out.
- After the conflict is over, how to promote the participation of women in post-conflict negotiating situation. Stressed the involvement of women in situations of transitional justice. Since women make up a majority of the victims, their input post-conflict is necessary.
- Concluded that in terms of the ways that armed violence affects women, it is necessary to deal with the underlying cause of conflict and find ways to protect civilians. Use the tools that are already in place like the conventions and international commitments.

Mr. J. D. Seelam, MP, India

- Recounted that in India, two Prime Ministers were assassinated in terrorist attacks.
- Described the ways that women become targets during armed violence.
- Proposed that government forms self-help groups for women post-conflict. After conflict, many women become single-heads of household and must operate under strained financial circumstances. States should provide assistance to these women as they transition into their new roles.
- A legal framework should be built to protect women after the conflict has ended. In terms of land rights, it is critical to ensure that women are able to keep their homes even when their husbands are no longer there.

Ms. Irena Naa Torshie Addo, MP, Ghana

- Asserted that peace and democracy are absolutely essential to the development of a country. Armed violence causes a total breakdown of social structures that are key to development.
- Established that women's experience of armed violence is manifold: they are victims, perpetrators, booty and single heads of households. Additionally, violence against women becomes a popular tool of war.
- In times of conflict, women take on additional roles with more economic strains. However, when conflict ceases, women return to previous roles without acknowledgement of the added roles that they had taken on.
- Stressed that during conflict the number of internally-displaced persons and refugees increase significantly. The influx of people into urban areas causes a massive strain on already inadequate resources. The housing crisis in Algeria is an example.
- Noted that for refugees and displaced persons, moving to urban areas can have an overall negative effect. Many have to panhandle on the streets or rely on casual labor including survival sex.
- Ascertained that violence against women is part of societal behavior distinct from armed conflict. It is also necessary to combat these forms of violence during times of peace.
- Proposed possible solutions including state support for women and girls during times of armed conflict; enhance prosecution of sexual and other gender-based crimes; and hire judges, magistrates, investigating officers and other judicial personnel who have experience with gender-based violence.
- Concluded that it is in the State's hands to protect women as well as ratify international commitments to protect women.

Ms. Rosy Senanayake, MP, Sri Lanka

- Observed that men are killed in the battle but women make up most of the victims and that armed violence is accompanied by gender-based violence.

- Noted that armed violence exposes infrastructure inequalities that are present during the periods of peace but are exacerbated by the negative impact of armed violence. For women who are left to take care of the homes, access to food, water and healthcare become scarce.
- Stressed the need to increase women's representation in parliament and in positions of decision-making. Highlighted the various roles of women as victims, perpetrators and peacemakers during the war.
- Stated that, in Sri Lanka, more than 6,000 head of households are widows because of the war.
- Discussed the increase in teenage marriages. Parents used them as a means to avoid sexual harassment of their daughters.
- Since the war, women have also gained new roles in society because of the added responsibility they assumed during the war.
- Identified the importance of education for women, noting that some women are illiterate so they are unable to fight for their own rights after the war.
- Proposed several solutions including gender-budgeting and creation of postwar rehabilitation programs.
- Emphasized that women's rights are human rights.

Mr. Coskun Çörüz, MP, The Netherlands

- Highlighted that as both victims and tools of war in situations of conflict, women are twice the victim.
- Stressed the significant role of women in the Arab Spring and during wartime. They must look after the casualties and also assume significantly more domestic obligations.
- Emphasized the often-unrecognized contributions women make in times of conflict. They stabilize the domestic sphere while also assuming additional roles.
- Maintained the importance of including women in legislation concerning war.
- Underscored the importance of leading efforts on the national and international level and further concluded efforts should be organized on the grassroots level. Addressing the issue at the grassroots level helps to simplify the associated complexities.

Mr. Deepayan Basu Ray, Policy Adviser, Oxfam UK

- Asserted that gender-based violence is based on structural violence committed against women. This violence manifests itself in institutions on the national and international levels.
- Discussed the need to deconstruct the processes currently in place. Rather than have separate institutions geared towards addressing women's issues, we should include women in the institutions already in place. For example, the mission and agenda of organizations like UN Women should be included in all five of the principal organizations of the UN.
- Concluded there is political will to address these issues at least at the rhetorical level.

- Proposed that work should be done with men and boys to allow them to recognize their roles in structural violence.

Interactive Dialogue

During the question and answer session participants introduced various topics. Ms. Bernadette Lahai, MP from Sierra Leone, questioned traditional peacekeeping methods and wondered whether they could be re-interpreted and implemented during current times. She also advocated for the inclusion of women in post-conflict reconstruction and sought different ways they could be brought in from the peripheries. Meanwhile, Mr. George Kuntu Blankson, MP from Ghana, inquired how to hold big nations that produce these weapons accountable.

In response to these issues, panelists noted that a possible solution in one country may not be applicable in other cultures. Mr. Oulanyah, MP from Uganda, stated: “there should be initiatives geared towards children, if children are brought up properly, they will respond differently to these issues.” Panelists also highlighted the role of democracy and media in holding larger nations accountable. They also emphasized the role of media in decreasing gender-based violence. Panelists responded that parliamentarians should ensure their governments implement the treaties and documents that they sign. Mr. Basu Ray stressed the importance of institutionalizing women’s voices.

PANEL III – The Impact of Armed Violence on Development: The Security Dimension

Chairperson: Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi, PGA Secretary-General

Panelists:

- Hon. David Musila, Assistant Minister of State for Defense, Kenya
- Mr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, MP, Nepal
- Sen. Lotfullah Baba, Afghanistan
- Hon. Anura Priyadharashana Yapa, Minister of Environment, Sri Lanka
- Professor J. Edward Laurance, United States

This panel provided an overview of key issues related to human security, good governance and the importance of the rule of law. Ms. Shazia Rafi described PGA’s prior work with UNDP on human security. She posed the general question to panelists on what can be done in regards to human security issues around the world. Several panelists emphasized that security is a necessary requirement for sustainable development and that we need to invest in youth. Unemployment and a lack of opportunities are root causes for armed violence and the important influence of civil society organizations (CSOs) can positively contribute to diminish armed conflicts.

*SUMMARY OF PANELIST PRESENTATIONS:
THE SECURITY DIMENSION*

Hon. David Musila, Assistant Minister of State for Defense, Kenya

- Spoke about security dimension in the Horn of Africa and its impact on Kenya.
- To him, security means protection against loss but also structures and processes that provide security as a condition.
- Emphasized the crucial relation between human security and democracy.
- Over the last four decades, the regions of the Eastern and Horn of Africa have witnessed numerous conflicts of one community against the other, of one State against the other, leading to human suffering.
- The ability of some governments to pursue rational policies that lead to national stability is lacking.
- Vast recruitment of children into military groups is a common feature in the region.
- States have turned into lawlessness entities, like Somalia for example, leading to instability in this community of States and inability of States to dialogue with each other leading to civil war and involvement of civilians.
- Instability is leading to lack of development and loss of resources and these resources are wasted in endless conflicts.
- Kenya has been largely stable apart from the 2008 post election violence. Kenya is now on a serious reform path through the constitution of 2010, a remarkable achievement. The country has created new strong institutions of legislature, over 10 oversight bodies, and free media ascertaining security and development in the country.
- After a long civil war, Kenya is happy to welcome Southern Sudan as free nation.
- The biggest challenge for Kenya is the lack of a government in Somalia since 1991.
- Strategies to address security challenges in the region:
 - Security cooperation in refugee issues and border control. One of the largest refugee camps in the world is based in Kenya today with over half a million refugees. Many of them have criminal records.
 - Joint investment in customs and border control to prevent smuggling from weapons and drugs. Local and regional capacities.
- Africa is not poor. It is a cause of bad governance and bad allocation of resources. Africa as a whole would be a secure place if we take care of these issues.

Mr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, MP, Nepal

- Explained the violent conflict Nepal has gone through; a place where before this conflict you did not need to lock your house even when you were not there. Nepal has suffered a lot from this armed conflict. A country with 27 million people and

56,000 square miles and during this conflict lost more than 40,000 people, most of them civilians. Most of the effect of violence was in rural areas.

- The combination of political and ideological problems led to insurgencies.
- Until today there is a transitional post conflict situation in Nepal. Due to the instability created during the transition it is easy to move without identification cards and get involved into criminal instability.
- Nepal will hopefully now implement what has not been implemented yet from the peace agreement. Now the Maoist party is heading the government and will begin to implement this peace process. Separate political parties for peaceful reconciliation processes are now encouraged.
- He stated that a few things remain to be done:
 - It is good to sign international conventions but what is required now is implementation, which can only happen if the constitution is written and free and fair elections can take place. This in turn will also open opportunities for employment and investment into agriculture, tourism, etc, which are not taking place because of the lack of security.
- The parliamentary monitoring committee is working on the peace process and the opposition party already agreed on that but there are some technical issues that need to be settled. Foreign security forces need to be reduced.
- The international community focuses on strategic interests like in Sudan and Afghanistan; but Nepal does not get this kind of attention. For the MDG on women's empowerment to be reached, Nepal needs more help from the international community.
- He finally emphasized the importance of a new constitution based on the rule of law.

Ms. Shazia Rafi said that PGA hopes to be back in Nepal again and encourages Nepal to become a state party to the ICC, emphasizing the importance of ratifying the Rome Statute of the ICC for the rule of law.

Sen. Lotfullah Baba, Afghanistan

- Two wars in the region have caused loss of civilians and resources and weakened the national budget.
- Afghanistan has suffered terribly from the damages of war; more than two million have been killed and millions injured and become orphans. Mother and child killing have increased and most of the cities are in poverty. Millions of refugees trying to cross the border have lost their lives.
- Millions of young people are unoccupied and disabled. Afghanistan is the only country that does not even have electricity in the capital.
- The country must start a process towards peace and reconciliation urgently.
- The government of Afghanistan under President Karzai must start communications with opposition groups and in this regard ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) should cooperate to convince both sides of the conflict

- with an arrangement of cease-fire. The international community should advise on this process and Afghan forces must take responsibilities of all army operations.
- In the field of education, the government should recognize its responsibilities and build schools and roads with the funds received by the international community. People should not have to postpone education because of war.
 - At the frontier areas such as Chaman, Torkham, Babrak Thana and others, public health is not available at all.
 - Young people play a valuable role in the society. Those who are jobless should join the national army and police before being convinced to sacrifice themselves into terrorist activities.
 - The government of Afghanistan and the international community should pay special attention to the issue of women and development and Afghani's wish that the international community would help the Afghan government to build schools and universities near all districts for women and girls in particular.

Hon. Anura Priyadharashana Yapa, Minister of Environment, Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka as a nation has vast experience of armed violence of different kinds. Sri Lanka has become a free nation once again after a long struggle. In the history of Sri Lanka there was armed violence in 1971. It took some time to rehabilitate.
- In July 1983, a small terrorist outfit turned into a strong terrorist organization; this organization continuously attacked civilians and destroyed the infrastructure.
- Some losses may never be recovered like the loss of soldiers and civilian life.
- Causes of this armed violence are several and are difficult to describe.
- Root causes might be a single person's perception or the one of a group but it became a disaster for the nation.
- Armed violence is threatening the internal community and loss of money for war and loss of infrastructure. Armed violence leaves many scars and when violence ceases, it does not bring the dead back to life. It fractures community and loss of human resources and thousands of hectares of land. Families lost members and children are kidnapped for child soldiering. After war things turn to normal but not as fast as people like and people need to not only rebuild from scratch but also make sure that violence does not reoccur.
- A big factor is to make future more predictable and rebuild infrastructure.
- Reconciliation needs to happen and distrust needs to be rebuilt.
- In Sri Lanka, 95% of displaced persons have been resettled; conflict areas are cleared of landmines, hospitals rebuilt. Monumental success has been reached for the nation.
- Development has to go hand in hand with democratization.
- Sri Lanka is a nation which has fallen many times in history but always got back on its feet due to people's ability to sacrifice and willingness to do the hard work.

Professor Edward Laurance, United States

- Parliamentarians are close to the people. Parliamentarians are a key element in making global action an issue because they connect with the people that they present.
- Armed violence needs to be looked at through four lenses: institutions, instruments, agents and people.
- The focus of this presentation is on the instruments and the global action that we can take in this regard.
- It makes a difference in which way weapons are distributed to the society. Weapons have been given into the wrong hands before.
- Summarizing the effects of armed violence we can see that it is leading to fear and insecurity. Honest people that start buying guns due to their fear.
- Deaths from civil wars are declining but deaths from organized crime are increasing.
- The ATT and the *UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* (PoA) do not address human rights violations and other negative effects of proliferation and misuse of SALW.
- Parliamentarians need to fight for key new elements to be kept in the ATT.
- *International Small Arms Control Standard* (ISACS) will be useful for parliamentarians in the oversight of their governments.
- Specific recommendations to parliamentarians:
 - To get on their national delegations for the ATT PrepComm.
 - To keep the negative effects of the arms trade in front of their governments.
 - To get government officials to join the ISACS process.
 - To prepare specific actions for the PoA Review Conference in August 2012 and to work with governments to implement the PoA.
 - To join and work with the Geneva Declaration's program and evidence gathering efforts.

PANEL IV – SECURITY DIMENSION

Chairperson: Dr. Bernadette Lahai, MP Sierra Leone

- Mr. Gabriel Smith, MP, Liberia
- Sen. Mwamba Mwamus, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Mr. Song Min-soon, MP, Republic of Korea
- Sen. Jim Walsh, Ireland
- Mr. Musa Al Zawaharah, MP, Jordan

Mr. Gabriel Smith, MP, Liberia

- Security remains an inseparable part of development. A significant portion of resources is used to mitigate the negative impacts of armed violence.
- Law enforcement is weakened in situations of armed violence. In most cases armed violence may be seen as an urban phenomenon. As parliamentarians we bear great responsibility.
- A lack of opportunity and a large gap between rich and poor can be causes of armed violence.
- Liberia achieved independence in 1847; the economy was good but only for a select group of society. Only the rich could get positions in government. Efforts to change this resorted in armed violence in 1980. In 1989, the revenge by Charles Taylor led to even worse violence. Mothers were forced to commit sexual intercourse with their own children. Today all of this is history. Now, with strong leadership we can all move forward.
- A three dimensional effort is needed to fight armed violence. It has to be: international, national, and through the community.
- The ICC has served as a corrective institution in the world. The ICC is the most important tool to fight against armed violence.
- The community is another very important factor to fight armed violence.

Sen. Mwamba Mwamus, DRC

- The DRC has known independence since 1960 and since then cycles of armed conflicts have occurred.
- The deadliest violence in the history of the DRC is that of August 2, 1998, called the war of aggression, orchestrated by the neighboring countries Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.
- The consequences of this war have been the loss of life of more than 5,000,000 people, the mass rapes of women and children, the environmental destruction, and the systematic looting of natural resources.
- The actual cause of this war is the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the DRC. The international community has called it the crisis of legitimacy.
- Hence the international community intervened to end the war in condemning the aggression of the DRC while introducing:
 - The Inter-Congolese Dialogue that led to the formation of a consensual government with wide national unity known as the 1+4 formula (one President and four Vice Presidents);
 - The composition of a parliament representing forces of the country made up by former members of government, political entities and armed and non-armed members of civil society;
 - The creation of institutions supporting democracy;
 - The organization of the political transition;
 - The organization of elections in 2006.
- The elected President of the Republic, Joseph Kabila Kabange initiated a major program of reconstruction of the DRC which focuses on five projects for the

rehabilitation of the socio-economic and basic infrastructure completely destroyed by armed violence.

- The challenge lies in the responsibility of parliamentarians at all levels--local, regional and international--to support a strong ATT.
- Armed violence has lifted the responsibility of parliamentarians for 2012 and countries have the responsibility to establish international norms for the transfer of arms.

Mr. Song Min-soon, MP, Republic of Korea

- Posed the question of: “How does poverty influence armed violence, especially with regard to youth?”
- Traveling as a diplomat to different conflict zones of the world, he saw young people with eyes soaked in anger. Their desperation was apparent to raise armed violence. Almost half of the world population is under 24 and the majority lives in less developed countries. There is a clear risk in these environments to become involved in armed violence as perpetrators, victims or witnesses.
- Efficient institutions and better law enforcement are needed to protect youth from armed violence. Effective job training is needed. This needs coordination of government and private sectors and investment of donor governments in conflict zones. When the youth have proper jobs it would be a natural consequence that the danger of exposure to armed violence will be significantly reduced.
- There is a need for more development assistance and efforts to reduce armed violence better integrated in programs of development assistance. The world spends 12 times more money in war and fighting than in development assistance and preventing death.
- Conflicts and terrorism are major sources of armed violence.
- The world is spending disproportional money on the cure than on preventing diseases.
- In the Korean peninsula: North Korea is known for spending 500 million dollars in their nuclear weapons program. South Korea is spending 30 billion dollars on national defense to protect itself from provocation.
- Poverty, armed conflict and violence are closely interlinked.
- The suggestion therefore is to reduce military spending of donor countries by 10% and convert this into development assistance programs to create job opportunities.

Sen. Jim Walsh, Ireland

- Senator Walsh’s presentation focused on the Irish Peace Process:
- The war of Independence secured sovereignty from the British Empire under a treaty signed in 1922. The treaty also gave rise to a civil war.
- The independent State’s population was 95% Catholic while in Northern Ireland it was 60% Protestant/Unionist and 40% Catholic/Nationalist.

- During the 1960's, the Nationalist population of Northern Ireland took to the streets in a campaign to highlight the discrimination under Unionist dominated rule.
- Protests led to rioting as the Unionist-controlled police force overreacted. The first killings of the conflict took place.
- Previous decades the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was relatively inactive but these events mobilized the IRA into activity initially to protect those involved in the civil rights marches. This inevitably led to paramilitary conflict involving both the IRA and Loyalist paramilitary organizations.
- British Army had taken control of security in Northern Ireland and at a civil rights march in Derry on the 30th of January 1972 they shot twenty seven unarmed civilians, of which fourteen were killed. This led to a huge international outcry, the burning of the British Embassy in Dublin, and created tremendous hostility within Nationalist Ireland. Bloody Sunday was a significant event in attracting young recruits to join the ranks of the IRA.
- However political dialogue was continuing between the British and Irish governments and the axis was further strengthened by the Downing Street Declaration of 1993 and a Framework Document in 1995, which provided a vision on which the Good Friday Agreement could be negotiated. The multi-party talks, leading up to this agreement, were unprecedented in that they brought together for the first time all Northern Irish political parties, including those linked to paramilitary groups like Sinn Fein, the DUP and the UDP.
- Strand one dealt with relations between the Northern Irish parties, strand two dealt with North/South relations and strand three dealt with East/West, or British/Irish relationships. Fundamental to the agreement was a compromise on the constitutional status of Northern Ireland, where the British government conceded that they had no strategic or selfish interest in remaining there, and, would be guided by the principle of consent.
- Critical to the viability of the Good Friday Agreement was agreement on other issues that were central to the conflict. These measures were: decommissioning, demilitarization and normalization of the security situation, police reform, criminal justice and prisoners, civil rights, safe guards and equality of opportunity.
- He concluded that a lot of progress has ensued since the Good Friday Agreement. The personal chemistry that existed between Prime Minister Tony Blair and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was fundamental to reaching agreement in the first instance in 1998 under the expert chairmanship of Senator George Mitchell from the United States. When various obstacles emerged, their determination, perseverance and excellent working relationship was crucial in their gaining the trust and confidence of all participants and reaching the point we have now achieved. This of course has been internationally recognized, in that at this time they are both engaged in meeting with *Euskadi Ta Askatasuna* (ETA) and the authorities in the Basque region with a view to achieving a similar outcome. The experience in Northern Ireland provides a template for conflict resolution in other areas around the world and illustrates that conflicts may not be settled by security measures alone.

- Parliamentarians do and can make a difference when people recognize that the underlying causes of conflict must be comprehensively settled in order to ensure a sustainable lasting peace to which we all aspire.

Mr. Al-Zawaharah, MP, Jordan

- Achieving peace and security faces so many challenges and problems as facing challenges through the cooperation to carry this responsibility together.
- We cannot achieve sustainable development without efforts to cease negative effects of armed violence. Armed violence destroys the efforts of sustainable development and the same is true for drug and weapons trafficking.
- Armed violence also destroys social networks and the environment.
- Every weapon that is made leads to hunger in the world and the world cannot bear the costs for this.
- The expenses needed for rebuilding the country after conflicts are too high and affect sustainable development projects. These are the barriers in front of development.
- Historical incidents have shown that the spread of drugs and weapons are also costly for social and cultural developments.
- This armed violence has no relation with culture or environment or ethical values.
- It would be productive to join the efforts of the United Nations.
- Jordan is free from armed violence and provides peace and awareness for its citizens.

Interactive Dialogue

Questions were raised regarding the responsibilities of developed countries to prevent armed violence in other parts of the world. Mr. Ross Robertson, MP from New Zealand and Convener of PGA's Peace and Democracy Program, requested more insights on the dynamic influence of former Prime Minister Tony Blair and the Irish Prime Minister of that time in bringing peace to Ireland. A Nepalese member of parliament inquired on how to make security and rebel forces attuned to human rights issues and how to fight corruption in this context.

Several panelists agreed on the idea of reducing the budget of arms production and using it instead for development aid towards youth. A Senegalese member of parliament spoke about the violence due to bad electoral processes. A Nepalese member of parliament spoke about Lenin's approach that closing the arms industry is not the answer but the answer would be to hand over the power to the real representatives of the people. Following this comment, participants discussed whether the solution would be to stop producing arms or to address the root causes of the conflict. Mr. Boubacar Diarra, MP from Mali, mentioned that the situation in Libya is urgent and a big problem for all African states and inquired on how the international community would deal with all the small arms in the region.

Mr. David Musila, MP from Kenya, mentioned that actually it was the Kenyan parliament that deferred perpetrators of armed violence to the ICC. Moreover, the Kenyan parliament took a serious step when Al-Bashir was about to visit Kenya, namely passing a resolution that stated that if he would enter Kenya he would be arrested.

Sen. Mwamus from DRC answered that in all ways he agrees with representative from Senegal regarding the situation in CDI. The problems are manifold and if the developing countries are going on to produce weapons; the developing countries in political crisis will have problems eliminating the causes. Parliamentarians are interested in fighting the root causes of armed conflict.

Sen. Walsh from Ireland agreed that there must be more coordination to make sure that the root causes of armed conflict are addressed and there is a lack of morality of countries involved in armed conflict than in finding a solution for this. There is a stronger need in small arms reduction. If there is trust and confidence between those who are in conflict than you are actually half way through and that was a big part in Ireland.

Mr. Song, MP from the Republic of Korea, proposed job training and education programs with the help of developed countries. Last year, the world spent 130 billion dollars on development assistance but when we look at the actual content of the program the assistance is not satisfactory. Good coordination is needed. Job training needs to be linked to job opportunities. The infrastructure must respond to this and the coordination with the government must be good. Job training programs and investments by donor countries should go hand in hand. Donor countries can promote investment by private sectors. Coordination between governments, official development assistance (ODA) and private investors is very effective. With regards to inter-Korean relations, the idea is to have more exchanges between South and North. Five decades ago, North Korea was economically better off than the South but as a result of the division, the population in the North is now facing poverty and lack of jobs. There is now a cycle of arms reduction and poverty reduction.

Mr. Smith, MP from Liberia, stated that the peace that Liberia has now is related to the government providing opportunities and technical and vocational training to young people. As a result, most of the young people are employed and once the youth is engaged into something they are not going to take on violence.

Dr. Lahai, MP from Sierra Leone and Chair of this panel, ended the session by thanking the panelists and explaining them that PGA has played an important role in assisting countries to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC. She suggested that parliamentarians interested in assistance in pushing their own countries to ratify the ICC can contact PGA staff members David Donat-Cattin or Stefanie Kueng about strategies.

PANEL V – The Impact of Armed Violence on Development: The Trade and Investment Dimension

Chairperson: Mr. Felipe Michelini, MP, Uruguay

- Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, MP, India
- Sen. Muhammad Hamayun Khan Mandokhel, MP, Pakistan
- Mr. Stephen Tashobya, MP, Uganda
- Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP, Sweden
- Dr. Yusuf Ziya Irbec, MP, Turkey
- Mr. Thilanga Sumathipala, MP, Sri Lanka
- Mr. Cristian Paredes, MP, Dominican Republic
- Mr. Jeff Abramson, Coordinator, Control Arms , United States

*SUMMARY OF PANELIST PRESENTATIONS:
THE TRADE AND INVESTMENT DIMENSION*

Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, MP, India

- The suffering of different political groups in nations affects people and there is always a fear of repetition.
- The infrastructure is subject to destruction. The restoration, reconciliation and rehabilitation processes have to be addressed.
- In Germany for example there have been good reconciliation and rehabilitation mechanisms for society.
- The restoration and rehabilitation has to be achieved by the people itself.
- Several studies by the World Bank show that trade and investment are affected by armed violence.
- Regarding the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT): modern citizens want peace and security and the military is replaced by liberal democracy.
- An arms trade treaty will bring peace and parliamentarians have to come up with a declaration.

Sen. Muhammad Hamayun Khan Mandokhel, Pakistan

- The problem of armed violence is all over the world. After September 11, 2001, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) came to Afghanistan and pushed the Taliban out of government. As a result the Taliban came to rural areas and continued armed violence there. This led to many dimensions of armed violence in Pakistan.
- Root causes are spill-over effects. As a result of armed violence 35,000 people died. Forty-five million dollars are lost. Resources are not adequate to rebuild this kind of loss. Inequitable development and inequitable retribution of resources are some of the effects. For example, seventy percent of wealth in Pakistan is in Karachi.

- In Balochistan, one of the four regions of Pakistan, there is ongoing armed violence due to a sectarian problem that has affected trade between Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.
- There is tremendous potential for trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan but due to violence this potential has been reduced.
- Another area with high occurrence of armed violence is happening in federally administered tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan. The consequences have affected education and economic growth and unemployment has increased. Inflation has increased. There is no foreign investment and very little domestic investment.
- Stated that two resolutions have been passed and a proposal for a 3Ds program has been initiated by Pakistani government:
 - Dialogue with all parties and stakeholders;
 - Development since the problem is due to inequitable development that has taken place;
 - Deterrence.

Mr. Stephen Tashobya, MP, Uganda

- Thanked PGA for the help in implementing and “domesticating” the Rome Statute of the ICC in Uganda. The first individual is currently under trial. Also thanked PGA members that attended the Kampala Conference.
- Good practices in trade and investment are important for human dignity while bad practices are reasons for disaster and environmental degradation.
- National and regional efforts have not yet been galvanized. Armed conflicts and armed violence have a devastating impact on human suffering.
- All countries that have had conflicts, without exception, performed badly in investment and trade.
- Africa has benefited from trade but the problem is also that the state of infrastructure remains bad which makes business difficult.
- In Uganda, in 2010, there were new challenges like too little human resource capacities and little training resources. The oil trade presents security challenges for the country.
- By investing in fighting impunity, PGA has also helped to fight armed violence.

Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP, Sweden

- Emphasized the importance of a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). It is possible to regulate, when it is about legal trade.
- Sweden as a small country has been very poor before. The situation changed because there is education for every one and equal rights for men and women.
- The defense industry is an important sector for Sweden because it goes together with the high-tech industry.

- There are agreements on the trade of arms that are still on development, replaced today with a common position.
- The European Union (EU) has a drop down in economy which is a challenge for the Union, but hopefully solutions can be found so that the Union can continue to exist.
- Parliamentarians as politicians can make the ATT possible but they must also look after possibilities for people in society to have a good life. No child wants to be a child soldier and girls do not want to be raped. Sweden is one of the countries that really welcomes the ATT since Sweden has a long history working for peace. The former UN Secretary General, Olof Palme, and the recent Foreign Minister of Sweden work strongly on peace issues.

Dr. Yusuf Ziya Irbec, MP, Turkey

- Over 700,000 people die every year due to armed violence. It affects all people, including those out of war zones. Since 1992 every form of political violence has declined, except for terrorism.
- Since the Second World War most conflicts are in Africa.
- World marketed energy consumption increases and leads to armed violence.
- Oil resources are mostly in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and gas mostly in the Middle East and Asia. In the neighborhood of Turkey there are almost 72% of oil reserves and gas reserves.
- Turkey is conducting a project to decrease possibilities of armed violence titled “The Global Threats Studies Network” (GTSN). Some of the GTSN research findings are that rules and regulations are very important and international cooperation is needed for technological advancement. Trade and investment requires secure environment, anti-corruption laws, good governance, strategic geographical location, networks, and infrastructure.
- The way forward is to build civil society networks, support advocacy work, share experiences between countries, focus on strategic measures, fight poverty and provide socio-political stability.

Mr. Thilanga Sumathipala, MP, Sri Lanka

- Many Asian countries have experienced armed conflicts and the trend is increasing. There were at least eight ongoing armed conflicts in Asia from 2006-2009. Not many of those were interstate conflicts, only Pakistan-Afghanistan, while Korea is an internationalized inter-state conflict.
- An investor-friendly environment is needed to be stable.
- The negative impacts on the economies of countries and climate change are sources of armed violence.
- Armed conflict also affects private investment since confidence decreases and companies are likely to cancel deals. However, most of the loss in GDP is due to loss of infrastructure.

- In conflict situations, governments will measure and take decisions to curb armed violence. Pressures for democratically-elected governments increase. He raised the questions on: how can anybody have consistency for investors without stability in the country? Terrorist groups are aware of this and know how to put pressure on elected bodies.
- We, as parliamentarians, have pressure from donor agencies to succeed.

Mr. Cristián Paredes, MP, Dominican Republic

- Armed violence is major cause of death for adolescents between 15 and 20 years of age. The hostile context in which people are living with each other creates more violence and insecurity in Latin America.
- Women are major victims. During peace time women are also victims but during war even more.
- Economic development affects the production of every country and the economic impact is considered the regional cost of approximately 170 million. People in the late 90s were affected by this violence. In our function as representatives we can define public policies.
- We have to guarantee the life and physical integrity of our people.
- We need to challenge the threat of violence and be firm with the instrument in order to eliminate the traffic of small arms. All these initiatives should be supported by all of us. We should motivate our parliamentarians to work on this.
- The ATT is fundamental to limit irresponsible sales of arms. We need to create a group of parliamentarians to work exclusively on this issue. We should study the possibility to coordinate legislative action. Create minimum standards and we would not touch principles of sovereignty. National governments cannot work alone, we need to work together on international cooperation agreements and look on common ways to do so. In parliaments of Central America and the Caribbean we have already talked about this issue.
- Together we can mobilize countries and ways of thinking about an urgent need to stop armed violence.

Mr. Jeff Abramson, Coordinator, Control Arms, United States

- Control Arms is a global civil society alliance campaigning for a “bulletproof” Arms Trade Treaty that will protect lives and livelihoods.
- Weapons as a trade item is not like a banana but there is a global trade of this merchandise.
- Global trade in weapons is less than 1% of total global trade but the damage caused by it, is very prevalent.
- The global spending on military is approximately 1 trillion dollars.
- Countries care very much about weapons. If you are trading weapons with a country it is a sign of a good partnership. We need to find other ways that demonstrate good relationships between countries.

- Global investors prefer safe countries with security and countries that are affected by arms and weaponry are not safe or secure. Investors are taking note of the ATT because it could better regulate their issue space.
- The next ATT PrepComm is in February; parliamentarians should consider getting their countries' delegations to attend. The ATT needs to decide what types of arms need to be regulated. It also needs to define what is considered as trade. This treaty should state that arms should not be traded if they pose a threat to human rights and human security.
- Parliamentarians can demand transparency from their respective governments
- In 2008, over 200 parliamentarians signed a declaration about arms trading.
- Parliamentarians should join the effort for the ATT. As proposed by Mr. Cristián Paredes, MP from Dominican Republic, a parliamentary group should be created to this effect.

Interactive Dialogue

Mr. David Musila, Assistant Minister from Kenya, spoke about Somalia and asked the fellow parliamentarians to imagine living in a country where arms are readily available and pose a very real threat to human security. We should keep this in mind when addressing these issues. On the other hand, Mr. Lamine Thiam, MP from Senegal, said that in West Africa, there is a presence of sophisticated arms but no one can identify where these arms are located. A resolution needs to be adopted to control the trade of arms in these countries.

Mr. Çörüz, MP from The Netherlands, said there needs to be ways to stop the radicalization and we should set up different institutions to fight against this development of ideologies. To fight the development of radicalization, we should engage with people from academia, civil society and find different means and processes to engage the people most vulnerable: youth. Ms. Cederfelt, MP from Sweden, on her part said there should be no illegal trade and there is a need for regulations. The market for the arms trade has some benefit for the society. The development for medical skills is very fruitful and those two go together.

Dr. Irbec, MP from Turkey, noted that there is no linkage between religious beliefs and terrorism but terrorists are misusing religion. Cost of conflict in every country is very high. The cost for economic development is at least two percent. It is a must for development to get at least this two percent. Mr. Abramson, Coordinator of Control Arms, said that the ATT starts a process where countries can hold each other accountable for arms trade; for example to countries like Syria. Right now there is no possibility for that. If we can define legal trade then we can make space for illicit trade much smaller. Lack of opportunities and lack of education are all related to armed conflict. Ethnic and regional intolerance are related as well to this problem.

Adoption of Colombo Plan of Action

The initial drafting session took place on 29 October, 2011 and was chaired by Mr. Ross Robertson, MP from New Zealand and Convener of PGA's Peace and Democracy Program. During the negotiations, PGA staff members Peter Barcroft and Leyla Nikjou assisted him.

The plenary discussion on the draft Plan of Action took place on 30 October, 2011. PGA members were supportive of the Draft Plan of Action prepared by the Drafting Committee, while at the same time seeking a number of changes and additions which improved the text and ensured all main points of deliberation during the Forum were more accurately reflected.

The requested revisions by the participants were properly made leading to the unanimous approval of the Colombo Plan of Action.

CLOSING REMARKS

- Ms. Bernadette Lahai, MP, Sierra Leone and Deputy Convener of International Law and Human Rights Program, PGA
- Ms. Shazia Rafi, Secretary General, Parliamentarians for Global Action
- Hon. Nimal S. De Silva, Leader of the House of Parliament, Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources Management, Sri Lanka

Ms. Bernadette Lahai, MP, Sierra Leone, Deputy Convener of International Law and Human Rights Program, PGA

- Acknowledged the positive contributions to the discussions by parliamentarians, experts and members of academia.
- Recognized the impact of the actions of state and non-state actors in the production and circulation of small arms and light weapons.
- Called fellow parliamentarians to share what they learned at the Forum with fellow members of their respective parliaments. Also urged fellow parliamentarians to hold their governments responsible for the issues discussed during the Forum.
- Stated: "We ourselves, as parliamentarians, we do not promote conflict or encourage the use of arms in our elections. We should

16th Annual Defender of Democracy Award

In conjunction with the 33rd Annual Forum, PGA held its Defender of Democracy Awards dinner on the evening of October 30th, 2011. The Defender of Democracy Award honors those individuals who have defended the principles of peace, democracy and justice around the world.

This year, PGA honored H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of Sierra Leone, for his fight against corruption and the implementation of policies to promote peace, democracy and transparency in his country.

walk the talk because as people by our very actions and deeds we can legitimize or decry armed violence.”

- Briefed on a trip to Jaffna by five PGA members including her. Highlighted the history of Jaffna as a place that experienced armed violence for approximately 30 years during the Sri Lankan Civil War. Noted how communities there owned the process of reconciliation.
- Highlighted the way communities owned the reconciliation process in Sri Lanka. Observed that the way conflict is resolved is demonstrative of the conflict itself.
- Concluded that the fight against armed violence and the illicit weapons trade is a crusade for PGA and everyone should work to ensure that this is respected.

Ms. Shazia Rafi, Secretary General, Parliamentarians for Global Action

- Acknowledged the hard work of the PGA chapter in Sri Lanka and thanked the Sri Lankan hosts for their hospitality during the Forum.
- Thanked the participants for their participation during the past two days and recognized the staff for the work and interpretations services.

Hon. Nimal S. De Silva, Leader of the House of Parliament, Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources Management, Sri Lanka

- Ascertained his delight for the immense participation of all guests and thanked his colleagues and staff for their assistance and the display of Sri Lankan hospitality.
- Acknowledged he was very proud for a very professional outcome of which we can be proud. We have tried our very best to make your stay the best.
- Lastly, he wished all participants a safe return home and his invitation to visit Sri Lanka on future occasions.

This final summary was compiled and written by Leyla Nikjou, Programme Associate, PGA and Rodline Louijeune, PGA Intern with editing assistance from Peter Barcroft, Director of Projects and Senior Programme Officer, International Law & Human Rights, PGA and Jennifer McCarthy, Assistant Secretary General, PGA