



**5th Meeting of  
PGA's Working Group on the Universality of the ICC  
in the Middle East and the South Mediterranean**

17 and 18 May 2012

Parliament of Morocco, House of Representatives

Rabat, Morocco

Salle Marocaine

**Programme and Participants**

Final Version

**I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND GOAL**

While most Governments in the Middle East and the Mediterranean have expressed support for the ICC, few have taken the necessary steps to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute. As of today, while 121 State are parties to the Rome Statute, in the Middle East, only Jordan in 2002 and Tunisia in 2011 decided to join the system of the ICC.

The Working Group on the Universality of the Rome Statute of the ICC in the region was created on the occasion of a parliamentary conference and related consultations held in Cairo, Egypt, in 2005. The PGA *Parliamentary Campaign for the Effectiveness and Universality of the Rome Statute system* organised subsequent sessions of the Working Group in Beirut, Lebanon (2006), in the Parliament of the Netherlands, The Hague (2007) and in Manama, Bahrain (2009).

The goal of the Working Group is

*"To reinforce the rule of law and principles of democracy by promoting universal participation in the ICC system and full adherence to the Statute's norms through effective national implementation of the Rome Statute in national legal orders, with a particular focus on the Middle East and the Mediterranean."*

The Working Group follows a format of closed-door political, legal and strategic consultations among a selected group of Parliamentarians from the region whereby experts and ICC officials are invited to provide specific input and to participate in inter-active dialogue. The discussions take place in Arabic, French and English.

For the 5<sup>th</sup> session, the Working Group met under the gracious auspices of the House of Representatives of Morocco, in Rabat on 17 and 18 May 2012.

**II. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN RABAT**

The meeting of the Working Group in Rabat will seek to address the following objectives:

1. Understanding the scope and role of the Rome Statute in the protection of the civilian population,
2. Understanding the contribution of the Rome Statute to the promotion and consolidation of the Rule of Law and the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern,
3. Analyzing the operation of the principle of complementarity and its impact on domestic legal orders,
4. Understand the challenges and progress of the ICC in various situations around the world,
5. Analyzing the perception of "double-standards" purportedly applied by international institutions, which may be detrimental to a "rules-based international order",
6. Discussing the crime of aggression following the adoption of a definition at the Review Conference in Kampala, and
7. Boosting the ratification process and identifying possible obstacles to overcome to get there.

### III. PROGRAMME

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#### Thursday 17 May: Salle Marocaine

09h-09h30

**Opening of the Working Group Consultations**

Mr. Mohammed Yatim, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Chamber of Representatives Moroccan Parliament*

Mr. Driss Lachguar, MP, *Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires (USFP)*

H.E. Amb. Tiina Intelmann, *Présidente de l'Assemblée des Etats parties au Statut de Rome de la CPI*

Mr. Coskun Çörüz, MP (Pays-Bas), *Deputy-Convenor, International Law and Human Rights Programme, PGA ; Rapporteur on Human Rights, Parliamentary Assembly OSCE*

Mr. Mohammed Benabdessadeq, MP, *Justice and Development Party*

10-11h

**Tour de table: Challenges to the prevention of international crimes in the Arab region**

11h-11h30

**Nomination of Rapporteurs and Approval of the Agenda of the Meeting**

11h30

**The ICC in the system of international justice and international politics**

*Amb. Tiina Intelmann, President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC*

*Interactive Discussion*

13h

**Lunch offered by the Parliament of Morocco**

15h

**Amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression**

Deborah Ruiz Verduzco, *Deputy-Director, International Law and Human Rights Programme, Parliamentarians for Global Action*

**Developments at the International Criminal Court**

Dr. Rod Rastan, *Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC*

**The Issue of Immunity for Heads of States at the International Level**

Maitre Mohammed Ayat, *Advisor to the National Commission of Human Rights, former Legal Advisor, Office of the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for Rwanda*

*Interactive Discussion*

19.30

**Dinner** *Restaurant le Grand Comptoir (279 Boulevard Mohamed V)*

...continues

**Friday 18 May : Parliament of Morocco : Salle Marocaine**

9h30

**The Rome Statute and International Humanitarian Law**

Prof. Mohammed El Bazzaz, *National Commission of International Humanitarian Law, Morocco*

**Importance of the harmonization of the Rome Statute with domestic criminal law**

Prof. Mohamed Ftouhi, *International Humanitarian Law Researcher*

**Civil society, democracy and the Rule of Law**

Ms. Fatima Zohra Boukaissi, Secretary-General, *ADALA*

Ms. Leila Hanafi, *Regional Coordinator for MENA Region, NGO Coalition for the ICC, International Secretariat*

Mr. Hicham Cherkaoui, *Expert on Fight Against Impunity, Advisor of PGA, Moroccan Coalition for the ICC*

*Commentary by Dr. David Donat Cattin, Senior Director, International Law and Human Rights Programme, Parliamentarians for Global Action*

*Commentary by Ms. Latifa Jbabdi, Union de l'Action Féminin, former-member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Morocco*

**Report from the Discussions**

Ms. Fatiha Moukni, MP (Morocco)

Ms. Souad Abderrahim, MP (Tunisia)

Mr. Abdessamad Idrissi, MP (Morocco)

**Strategic Discussion on priority topics and Agreement on Action**

12.30

Closing lunch offered by Parliamentarians for Global Action, Hotel Golden Tulip Farah

[Departure of Participants]

## IV. PARTICIPANTS

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### PARLIAMENTARIANS

#### EGYPT

1. **Dr. Adel Afify, MP**  
Deputy Chair, Human Rights Committee  
*Al Asala Party*

#### JORDAN

2. **Mr. Jamel Nimri, MP**  
*Democratic block*

#### MOROCCO

3. **Mr. Mohamed Yatim, MP**  
First Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Representatives  
*Justice and Development Party*
4. **Mr. Abdeslam Ballaji, MP**  
Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad  
*Justice and Development Party*
5. **Mr. Mohamed Benadbessadeq, MP**  
Vice-Chair, Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee  
*Justice and Development Party*
6. **Ms. Naima Benyahia, MP**  
Social Sectors Committee  
*Istiqlal Party*
7. **Dr. Jamal Bouzidi, MP**  
Infrastructure, Energy, Mines and Environnement Committee  
*Istiqlal Party*
8. **Mr. Roudani Cherkaoui, MP**  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee  
*Authenticity and Modernity Party*
9. **Ms. Fouzia Elbayed, MP**  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee  
*Constitutional Union*
10. **Mr. Ali Elyazaghi, MP**  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee  
*Socialist Union of Popular Forces*
11. **Ms. Rakiya Eddarhem, MP**  
Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad  
*Socialist Union of Popular Forces*
12. **Mr. Mokhtar Ghambou, MP**  
Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad  
*Popular movement*
13. **Mr. Mohamed Hanine, MP**  
Chair, Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee  
*National Rally of Independents*
14. **Mr. Abessamad Idrissi, MP**  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee  
*Justice and Development Party*
15. **Dr. Ahmed Jodar, MP**  
Social Sectors Committee  
*Justice and Development Party*
16. **Mr. Mohamed Khaïry, MP**  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee  
*Justice and Development Party*
17. **Mr. Hamza Kantaoui, MP**  
Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad  
*Justice and Development Party*
18. **Mr. Ali Kebiri, MP**  
Chair, Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad  
*Popular movement*
19. **Mr. Driss Lachguar, MP**  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights Committee  
*Socialist Union of Popular Forces*

20. **Mr. Abdessamed Lhaiker, MP**  
Higher Education, Culture and  
Communication Committee  
*Justice and Development Party*
21. **Mr. Chaabi Mohcine, MP**  
Finance and Economic Development  
Committee  
*Al-Mustaqbal*
22. **Ms. Fatiha Moukrii, MP**  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights  
Committee  
*Istiqlal Party*
23. **Mr. Abdellatif Naciri, MP**  
Social Sectors Committee  
*Justice and Development Party*
24. **Ms. Lahlou Oum El Banine, MP**  
Committee of Foreign Affairs, Islamic  
Affairs and Moroccans living abroad  
*Constitutional Union*
25. **Mr. Abdelkhalak Quarrouiti, MP**  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights  
Committee  
*Socialist Union of Popular Forces*
26. **Ms. Rachida Tahri, MP**  
Justice, Legislation and Human Rights  
Committee  
*Progress and Socialism Party*

#### TUNISIA

27. **Mr. Larbi Ben Salah Abid, MP**  
Deputy Speaker, Constituent Assembly  
*Republican Congress*
28. **Ms. Souad Abderrahim, MP**  
Chair, Legislation and Foreign Affairs  
Committee  
*Ennadha*

#### YEMEN

29. **Mr. Ali Ashal, MP**  
Development and Oil Committee  
*Aslab Party*
30. **Mr. Ali M. Al-Mamari, MP**  
Development and Oil Committee  
*Free Coalition*

#### THE NETHERLANDS

31. **Mr. Coskun Çörüz, MP**  
*Spokesperson on Justice and Human Rights, CDA ;  
Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee;  
Rapporteur on Human Rights, OSCE  
Parliamentary Assembly  
Deputy-Convenor, International Law and  
Human Rights Programme, PGA*

### ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUE

32. **Amb. Tiina Intelmann**  
President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC

### INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

33. **Dr. Rod Rastan**  
Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC

## GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND NATIONAL INSTANCES

34. **Mr. Hicham Balawi**  
Ministry of Justice  
*Morocco*
35. **Mr. Said Derkaoui**  
Ministry of Relations with Parliament, Office of Min. Choubani  
*Morocco*
36. **Mr. Mohammed Ayat**  
National Council for Human Rights, Morocco  
*Former Senior Legal Advisor, Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda*
37. **Dr. Mohammed El Bazzaz**  
National Commission of International Humanitarian Law  
*Morocco*

## EXPERTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

1. **Ms. Leila Hanafi**  
Regional Coordinator for MENA Region  
NGO Coalition for the ICC, International Secretariat (CICC)
2. **Ms. Fatima Zohra Boukaissi**  
Secretary-General, ADALA
3. **Mr. Mohamed Ftouhi**  
International Humanitarian Law Researcher
4. **Ms. Latifa Jbabdi**  
Union de l'Action Féminine  
*Former-member of Parliament and former member of the Moroccan Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and former member of PGA*
5. **Mr. Hassan Maaouni**  
President, Development Initiatives and Rule of Law Consolidation Forum  
*Former 2nd Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Morocco*

## SECRETARIAT

### PARLIAMENT OF MOROCCO

6. **M. Najib El Khadi**  
Secretary-General
7. **Mr. El Mustapha Nassiri**  
Chief of Press, Information and Public  
Relations
8. **Mr. Youssef Ait Zedib**  
Protocol
9. **Ms. Hafida Idbelhaj**  
Protocol

### PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION International law and Human Rights Programme

10. **Dr. David Donat Cattin**  
Senior Director
11. **Ms. Deborah Ruiz Verduzco**  
Deputy-Director
12. **Ms. Leyla Nikjou**  
Programme Officer
13. **Ms. Maia Trujillo**  
Programme Associate
14. **Mr. Hicham Cherkaoui**  
Expert on Fight Against Impunity; Moroccan  
Coalition for the ICC  
*Consultant for PGA*
15. **Ms. Alba I. Leon**  
Support from The Hague Office

## V. ABOUT PGA

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Founded in 1979, PGA is network of more than 1300 individual Parliamentarians from 130 countries of all regions of the world. PGA contributed to the creation of the ICC, and is conducting a global Campaign for the Universality of the ICC since the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998. PGA Members have led, authored and achieved ratifications of the Rome Statute in 75 countries of the current 121 members to the Rome Statute.

PGA's Secretariat operates from its United Nations Office (in New York) and its Office before the ICC (in The Hague).

*With the support from the European Union (European Commission), the Governments of Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland, and Humanity United Foundation, and the in-kind contributions from the Parliament of Morocco*

This document can be downloaded from: [www.pgaction.org/activity/2012/Rabat-ICC.html](http://www.pgaction.org/activity/2012/Rabat-ICC.html)  
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