



ADDRESSING THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS - SUPPORTING AN ARMS TRADE TREATY

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF NAMIBIA – WINDHOEK - 7-8 MARCH, 2013

With the Kind Support of the Foreign Ministry of Germany



Hosted by the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Namibia, PGA will organize a Regional Parliamentary Workshop on 'Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Supporting an Arms Trade Treaty – The Role of Parliamentarians'.

The purpose of the Workshop is to raise awareness surrounding the importance of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the region as well as promoting the establishment of a robust Arms Trade Treaty.

A Plan of Action will be drawn up at the conclusion of the Workshop which will contain a number of practical steps that Members of Parliament participating in this Workshop can take in their respective countries and parliaments to promote greater conformity with the UN Programme of Action and build further support for an Arms Trade Treaty, following conclusion of the Workshop.

This Plan of Action will subsequently be publicized at the United Nations in New York during the course of the ATT Conference to finalize negotiations on an Arms Trade Treaty, taking place from 18-28 March, 2013. In addition to participation by Members of Parliament in Namibia, PGA will bring a Delegation of Members of Parliament from 10-12 African Nations to Windhoek for this High Level Regional Parliamentary Workshop. As advocates and lawmakers, Members of Parliament have an essential role to play in this area and can make a vital contribution in addressing the devastating consequences flowing from the inadequate regulation of conventional weapons in certain regions of the world. To date, PGA Members of Parliament have been active in promoting improved domestic firearms legislation, facilitating the process of ratification of regional conventions, enhancing conformity of their national legislation with the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as advocating strongly for the ATT in many countries around the world.

PGA is the only parliamentary organization member of the Steering Board of Control Arms and played a substantial role in drafting The Control Arms Global Parliamentary Declaration on the Arms Trade Treaty. Over 1,800 of the 2,101 MPs that signed this Declaration worldwide did so as a result of outreach by PGA and its Member Parliamentarians.

For further information on this Regional Parliamentary Workshop, please contact Mr. Peter Barcroft, Director of Projects, PGA at peter.barcroft@pqaction.org