



Parliamentarians for *Global Action*
Acción Mundial de Parlamentarios
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires

PGA WELCOMES LARGE NUMBER OF UN MEMBER STATE SIGNATORIES TO ARMS TRADE TREATY

A Strong Start to Life for the ATT

New York/Wellington, 6th June, 2013

PGA welcomes the historic signing of the Arms Trade Treaty by 68 UN Member States from all over the world earlier this week.

PGA Members worldwide warmly congratulate governments, parliamentarians, civil society, international and regional organizations and the hundreds of thousands of dedicated individuals that have made an immeasurable contribution to the Arms Trade Treaty.

PGA President Ross Robertson, MP (Assistant Speaker of Parliament) stated *"This is another important milestone as we embark on our collective goal of ensuring the entry into force of the ATT within the shortest possible time frame. PGA launched its Campaign for Ratification and Implementation of the ATT on the day of adoption of the ATT on 2nd April, 2013. Already many of our Members are making significant inroads in persuading their governments to sign the ATT. We fully expect our Members to remain galvanized as we now also – in parallel – initiate the process of moving forward with ratifications of the ATT in the Parliaments in over 100 countries worldwide in which PGA Members are active and present."*

PGA Member Alban Bagbin MP (Ghana) stated: *"The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration is part of the Presidential entourage to France and Japan. They will return this weekend. I have requested to meet the Minister on arrival. I expect to meet him next week."*

PGA Member and Treasurer Margareta Cederfelt MP (Sweden) stated: *"I do welcome the ATT as an important step towards a more peaceful world. As an MP, I am proud that Sweden was one of the first countries to sign the treaty."*

PGA Member and Deputy Foreign Minister, Ephraim Kayembe MP (Malawi) stated: *"Please send me a copy of the Treaty so that I can facilitate sending it to our Ministry of Justice for clearance and final guidance. This would be very important for the Minister of Foreign Affairs to get final approval of our President to sign the treaty in September."*

PGA Member Senator Jim Walsh (Ireland) stated: *"Ireland is very pleased to be among the first signatories of the ATT, supporting our commitment to human rights and protecting the dignity of human life. Irish Parliamentarians are proud to be members of the PGA which so actively canvassed for this important Treaty".*

PGA Member Alaso Asianut MP (Uganda) remarked: *"I will go to the Foreign Ministry as soon as possible. Signing ATT should not be a major problem here, but I will find out."*

PGA Member Mark Pritchard MP (United Kingdom) stated: *"The Arms Trade Treaty has been over twenty years in the making. The recent New York meeting shows what can be achieved when countries work together in the global interest. The Arms Trade Treaty now needs to be followed-up with meaningful implementation"*.

PGA Member Juan Moscoso del Prado Hernandez MP (Spain) stated: *"I am particularly pleased by the contribution of so many individuals and organizations in Spain, as well as Members of Parliament from different political parties, in making the ATT a strong reality. I am also proud that Spain, alone among the 67 UN Member States that signed the ATT on 3 June 2013, took the additional step of invoking Article 23 of the ATT - allowing for immediate, provisional application of the ATT in Spain, pending its entry into force."*

PGA Member Bernadette Lahai MP (Sierra Leone) stated: *"I understand that the Government will sign during the GA of the UN. But I will follow up on their return (from a State visit overseas)."*

ABOUT PGA

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a non-profit, non-partisan international network of over 1,000 legislators in approximately 130 elected parliaments around the globe, aims to promote peace, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and population issues by informing, convening, and mobilizing parliamentarians to realize these goals.

For further information on PGA's Campaign for Signature, Ratification and Implementation of the ATT, please contact Peter Barcroft, Director of Projects, PGA at peter.barcroft@pgaction.org and view www.pgaction.org