



Parliamentarians for Global Action

VIII Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court

Intervention by Dr. Ruth Wijdenbosch, MP (Suriname), *Chair of the International Council of PGA*

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Honourable Assembly

Parliamentarians for Global Action pledges its full support to this session, welcoming in particular your work in ensuring that the world economic crisis does not translate into shortages for international justice and the rule of law.

Given PGA's commitment to universality as the basic precondition for the effectiveness of the Rome Statute system, we congratulate the ratifications of Chile and the Czech Republic, especially as they have turned entire regions, South America and the European Union respectively, into no-impunity zones.

But we are still far from ensuring that all individuals on any part of the globe are protected from grave crimes, or that they are equally upheld for responsibility if they dare to commit them. For this reason, we specifically call on the eleven countries from the Americas, including the Caribbean, pending to join the Rome Statute to do so. We also call on other states that are closer to ratification, such as Moldova, Indonesia and Ukraine, to ratify before March 2010, on time to have full participatory rights at the Review Conference. Our action continues in underrepresented regions of the world such as Asia and the Middle East, and we look forward to renew our partnership with all stakeholders, including this ASP, in promoting universality.

Honourable Delegates, the mission to end impunity lies with each of you. We must admit that most suspected international criminals are NOT being identified, are NOT being arrested, and are NOT being tried by the ICC or by competent national courts. This regrettable state of affairs must end. An essential step towards this objective will be the enactment of effective implementing legislation of the Rome Statute by the 2/3 of States pending to do so. In this respect, we welcome the recent ratifications of the APIC by the Dominican Republic and Uganda and the adoption of implementing legislation in the Central African Republic, where our work continues to include provisions for *in situ* trials and victims' protection and reparation.

As the result of the work of Ugandan parliamentarians on implementation, PGA will proudly hold in Kampala, two days ahead of the Review Conference, the Sixth Session of our Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC. Our objective in Kampala will be to reinforce the political call for you to conclude the task left unfinished in Rome, namely, to operationalise the crime of aggression within the independent jurisdiction of the Court, and to reinstate the integrity of the jurisdiction of the court on war crimes through the deletion of Article 124.

The works of this eighth session are building blocks for such important achievement. Thank you--