



Parliamentarians for Global Action
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE ROME STATUTE SYSTEM: STRATEGIES & BEST PRACTICES TAILORED TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Hosted by the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea

Thursday, 06 December 2018

13:15 – 14:45, Oceania 2 (cold lunch provided)

The World Forum, The Hague, The Netherlands

Achieving the universality of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is pivotal in reaching the goal of putting an end to impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern and reinforcing the ICC's legitimacy as a global criminal court. Only the universal membership of the Rome Statute would enable the ICC to effectively execute its mandate and increase its effectiveness in trying perpetrators of the crimes under its jurisdiction, given that automatic jurisdiction is based on the consent of the acceptance of the Statute by the territorial State or the States of nationality of the alleged perpetrators.

While significant obstacles need to be overcome in every region of the world to attain this objective, it is particularly the Asia – Pacific region that remains the most unrepresented in the Rome Statute system. Notwithstanding the fact that the region is home to approximately 60% of the world's population, out of 123 States Parties to the Rome Statute, only 19 out of 55 Asia-Pacific countries are represented in this membership. Moreover, this translates into only two of the ten Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations - Cambodia and the Philippines- being Parties to the Rome Statute, with the Philippines being in the process of the withdrawal from the Rome Statute.

While emphasizing the vital importance of the ICC in the human rights system as the only permanent international criminal jurisdiction with mandate to address impunity for international crimes, this side event will serve to analyse the main issues directly and indirectly hindering the universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute system in general and in the Asia-Pacific region in particular, as well as to propose ways to overcome them.

Agenda

Moderator

Ms. Barbara Lochbihler, MEP (Germany), Vice-Chairperson of the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the European Parliament; PGA's Board Member and Convenor of the International Law and Human Rights Programme/Rome Statute Campaign

Opening Remarks

H.E. Mr. Paul Van den Ijssel, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the International Criminal Court

H.E. Mr. Yun Young Lee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Netherlands

Panelists

Challenges for the universality in the Asia- Pacific region

H.E. Mr. O-Gon Kwon, President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC

Importance of continuing working towards full universality: Experience on the ratification processes

H.E. John Licht, Ambassador of Vanuatu to the European Union

H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Intervention: Sharing experience on the current challenges and obstacles in Malaysia

Mr. Andrew Khoo, Member of the Human Rights Committee, Bar Council Malaysia

Interactive discussion

Closing Remarks

Ms. Barbara Lochbihler, MEP, Vice-Chairperson of the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the European Parliament

Dr. David Donat Cattin, Secretary General of Parliamentarians for Global Action

[Working Languages: English]

For any inquires please contact Ms. Frederika Schweighoferova at schweighoferova@pgaction.org