

**13TH CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AND THE RULE OF LAW (CAP-ICC)**

45TH ANNUAL FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

28-29 OCTOBER 2024

Plan of Action for International Justice

We, the Members of Parliament participating in the 45th Annual Forum of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and the 13th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC):

Express our gratitude to the Parliament of Pakistan and Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) for co-organizing this assembly, to the panelists for sharing their expertise with the distinguished audience, as well as to funders and institutional partners for the invaluable support they provide to the work of PGA in the promotion of accountability, human rights, and the rule of law;

Recognize the diversity of views on the issue of universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute, as well as the differences in legal obligations of parties and non-parties to the Rome Statute;

Note that the Parliamentarians attending the meeting are doing so in their individual capacity and the contents of this document neither reflect/endorse the views & position of the respective Parliamentary bodies nor of the States whose Parliamentarians are represented here;

Noting these deliberations took place within the framework of PGA's Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of the Rome Statute;

Note with deep concern the rise in violent conflicts, crises and violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law which threaten global peace and security and challenge our shared commitment of "never again;"

Acknowledge, where applicable, the vital role of the International Criminal Court and the Rome Statute system in investigating and prosecuting the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, namely, the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression;

Express deep concern over the ongoing threats and attempts to undermine the independence, integrity, impartiality, and functioning of the ICC, as well as the safety of human rights defenders and civil society

organizations committed to the fight against impunity, which jeopardize the ability to deliver justice, ensure accountability, support survivors and communities of victims, and uphold international law;

Condemn threats and sanctions levied against the Court and its officials as they directly attack the very principles of international justice and its foundations;

Emphasize that further efforts are needed to end cycles of impunity for perpetrators, and alleviate the suffering for millions of citizens, including those protected persons under the Geneva Conventions;

Highlight the urgent need to strengthen the framework for prosecuting gender-based crimes, including sexual, reproductive, and other gender-based violence, especially in situation of conflict, recognizing that such crimes not only undermine peacebuilding efforts and perpetuate inequality and injustice, but also disproportionately affect women, girls, and vulnerable groups, leading to severe physical, psychological and social consequences;

Underscore the urgent need to address emerging international concerns, particularly ecocide, which threatens ecosystems, biodiversity, and our shared heritage and the protection of the environment for our future generations;

Reaffirm the crucial role played by parliamentarians, where applicable, in advancing the universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute system, strengthening both domestic and international criminal justice, while promoting the rule of law and safeguarding human rights;

Resolve to:

1. *Continue engagement and dialogue on ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC and its amendments* and ensure global accountability for the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression;
2. *Ensure the adoption by the State Parties of domestic legislation that fully aligns with the Rome Statute*, by incorporating the definitions of the four core crimes, general principles, and the rights of survivors and communities of victims, and by guaranteeing full cooperation of States Parties with the ICC;
3. *Promote stronger international cooperation* by calling the State Parties to comply with their international legal obligations under the Rome Statute, and encouraging them to conclude bilateral cooperation agreements with the ICC, including on enforcement of sentences, protection, and relocation and witnesses, and interim and final release;
4. *Urge State Parties to provide sufficient political and financial support to the ICC*, to ensure its independence, effectiveness, and efficiency, and condemn any threats or political interference that could undermine the very functioning of the Court;
5. *Cognizant* of the ongoing discussions and differences in legal and political views amongst the States on the role of ICC on the issue, *Strengthen national legal frameworks to address gender-based crimes*, ensuring access to justice for survivors and communities of victims, by:

- a. Addressing the root causes of sexual violence, and acknowledging that gender-based crimes can occur in any context, including during times of peace;
 - b. Adopting or amending legislation, to combat gender violence, including by ensuring access to justice to survivors and communities of justice, and providing the necessary framework to guarantee that these crimes are prosecuted with the same level of seriousness as other crimes;
 - c. Providing recognition and support for survivors and communities of victims, especially those affected by gender apartheid and other systemic gender-based violence;
6. *Urge legislators to take tangible actions* through their respective legislative and oversight roles in order to protect the environment for our future generations by including large-scale environment destructions in their criminal codes;
7. *Defend the independence and impartiality of the ICC and denounce the sanctions levied against the Court*, so that its organs can continue its essential work unhindered by political pressure or threats;
8. *Acknowledge the critical role of human rights defenders and civil society organizations* in upholding accountability, and ensure their protection from any threats or attacks, including by strengthening the civic space and guaranteeing their participation in relevant accountability and justice processes; and
9. *Promote public awareness of the ICC and international rule of law*, by fostering public debates to raise awareness on the importance of the Rome Statute system, including by engaging, respecting and addressing perspectives on its jurisdiction, applicability, as well as perception of politicization, and building support for the principles of international justice and accountability for the most serious crimes.