



## **Parliamentarians for Global Action**

**ACCION MUNDIAL DE PARLAMENTARIOS  
ACTION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Canada)

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### **PARLIAMENTARIANS TAKE ACTION ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1422 TO PREVENT ITS RENEWAL**

*NEW YORK, 17 July 2002* – Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) launched a course of action today to revoke the negative consequences of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1422, which provides U.N. peacekeeping personnel from countries that have not ratified the Rome Statute with a one-year suspension from investigation or prosecution by the International Criminal Court (ICC). PGA members will work to prevent the renewal of Resolution 1422, which will be reconsidered at the Council on 1 July 2003.

The resolution adopted last Friday followed weeks of tense negotiations that resulted in a partial rejection of the U.S. government's initial demand for blanket immunity from the Court's proceedings. In the end, the Security Council approved a one-year suspension from investigation or prosecution, while expressing its intention to renew this suspension indefinitely, potentially placing U.N. peacekeepers from non-States Parties above the law.

The international community firmly opposed Resolution 1422. General Assembly members, such as Germany and Belgium, stated that the resolution is inconsistent with Article 16 of the Rome Statute, which was designed to provide a one-year suspension under Chapter VII of the UN Charter only in specific cases, not as a generalized preventive measure. Also significant, states including Canada, Brazil, New Zealand and South Africa, believe that the resolution violates the U.N. Charter itself, as Chapter VII requires the existence of a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or an act of aggression before the Council can take such action. At an open session of the Council last week, Prince Zeid Al-Hussein, Ambassador of Jordan to the U.N., expressing his disbelief, asked, "How could the Security Council adopt a Chapter VII resolution on the Court, when the latter cannot by any stretch of the imagination, be considered a threat to international peace and security?"

"Parliamentarians from around the world share the concerns voiced by General Assembly states since Resolution 1422 was adopted," said Senator A. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada), convenor of PGA's International Law and Human Rights Program. "The Council's actions could be detrimental not only to the ICC and international law but more importantly to the Council's own legitimacy as it has exceeded its mandate by unlawfully amending a multilateral treaty."

Andreychuk proposed that PGA members active through the International Law and Human Rights Program take the following initiatives:

- (1) Disseminating the full facts and consequences of Resolution 1422 on the ICC and the U.N. system;
- (2) Encouraging PGA members to work with their parliaments to support their government in questioning the need, merit and legality of Resolution 1422; and
- (3) Urging parliamentarians to redouble their efforts to bring about the ratification and/or effective implementation of the Rome Statute in every country, thus promoting the universal nature of the ICC.

PGA members launched a campaign for a permanent ICC back in 1989 when A.N.R. Robinson, then Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago and convenor of PGA's International Law program, introduced the ICC in the U.N. General Assembly agenda. "Now, thirteen years later, parliamentarians remain committed to the fight against impunity and will work to preserve the integrity of the Rome Statute and the U.N. system," said Andreychuk.

*PGA is an association of 1350 legislators from 103 countries united to promote the resolution of global issues such as peace and democracy, sustainable development, international law and human rights. PGA members have been actively engaged in the establishment of the ICC and in local and regional ratification processes.*