



Parliamentarians for Global Action

ACCION MUNDIAL DE PARLAMENTARIOS
ACTION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES

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PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA) COMMITTED TO PREVENTING RENEWAL IN 2003 OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1422 (2002)

On 12 July 2002, the UN Security Council conceded a one year “suspension” from the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to UN peacekeeping personnel of Non States Parties to the Rome Statute.

Resolution 1422, proposed and defended by the United States (US), found serious resistance from the international community. While the US Government was initially requesting blanket immunity from the Court’s jurisdiction, in the end, the Security Council agreed to a renewable one-year exemption from investigation and prosecution by the Court.

Many general Assembly members, including Canada, Brazil, South Africa and New Zealand, question the legality of the Resolution, concerned that it violates Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which requires that a threat to the peace, a breach of the peace or an act of aggression exist before the Council can take action. Belgium and Germany also expressed the conviction that Resolution 1422 violates Article 16 of the Rome Statute, intended to operate on a case-by-case basis according to a well defined Security Council mandate. Moreover, the Security Council expressed the intention to renew this resolution each year for as long as may be necessary.

PGA’s network, consisting of more than 1300 MPs in 103 legislatures from all regions of the world, proposes the following course of action to ensure that on 1 July 2003 the Resolution is not renewed:

- (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 launched the ICC Campaign in 1989, just before the end of the cold war, when the first convener of PGA’s International Law program, HE A.N.R. Robinson of Trinidad & Tobago, introduced the ICC in the UN General Assembly agenda on behalf of his country. Now, 13 years later, the US threatens to use its veto to oppose peacekeeping, reminding us of the deadlock at the Security Council due to cold war tensions on matters pertaining to international law, peace and the fight against impunity.