

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

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Parliamentary Seminar on Human Trafficking in West Africa

In collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament and the ECOWAS Secretariat, PGA organized the Parliamentary Seminar on Human Trafficking in West Africa on February 24-25, 2004 in Abuja, Nigeria. (See page 2)

Dr. David Donat Cattin, PGA Legal Advisor; Sen. Sanusi Daggash (Nigeria); Dep. Mollé Mollé (Côte d'Ivoire); Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana) Second Deputy Speaker and PGA President

Ibero-American and Lusophone Parliamentary Conference on the International Criminal Court

PGA convened the Ibero-American and Lusophone Parliamentary Conference on the International Criminal Court (ICC) on March 25-26, 2004 in Brasilia, Brazil. The Conference brought together 150 legislators from 25 countries in Latin America, Africa and Europe and 500 governmental representatives, ICC officials, civil society experts and academics from Ibero-American and the Lusophone states. (See page 5)



Participants at the Ibero-American and Lusophone Parliamentary Conference on the ICC, Brasilia, Brazil, March 25-26, 2004

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PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN WEST AFRICA



Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Executive Secretary, ECOWAS Secretariat



Hon. Prof. Ali Nohoum Diallo, Speaker, ECOWAS Parliament



Ms. Fatimé Dam, Executive Officer; Ms. Nebiyat Woldemichael, Programme Officer, Peace and Democracy; Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana) Second Deputy Speaker and PGA President

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) organized a Parliamentary Seminar on Human Trafficking in West Africa, in collaboration with the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria on February 24-25, 2004. PGA brought parliamentarians from West Africa to present case studies from their home countries and discuss how they have dealt with the problem of human trafficking.

Leading experts on social, economic, political and international law, and transitional cooperation provided participants with the information necessary to understand the roots of the problem, including information on laws criminalizing human trafficking, and to build the necessary administrative structures to address and prevent the phenomena. They discussed the need to develop public awareness campaigns aimed at potential victims of trafficking, using both traditional channels of information as well as the mass media.

Over 140 participants, consisting of 52 Members of Parliament (MP), members of the diplomatic community, NGOs, international organizations, and the media, including the BBC, attended the seminar. High level officials present at the seminar were the Special Advisor to the President of Nigeria on Trafficking in Human Persons, senior advisors from the Office of the Foreign Minister of Nigeria, the ambassadors of Benin, Ghana, Greece, Mali, Niger, Norway, Spain, Sweden, a representatives from the Embassy of Ireland, and other diplomatic staff.

Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana), Second Deputy Speaker, PGA President and member of the ECOWAS Parliament, opened the seminar. In his welcoming address, Prof. Ali Nohoum Diallo, President

of the ECOWAS Parliament, spoke on the seminal work that ECOWAS has done so far on human trafficking and urged MPs to pursue this work further. The ECOWAS Parliament has been working on the issue of trafficking since 2001, particularly through the Committees on Women and Children's Rights; Education, Training Employment, Youth and Sport; and Health and Social Affairs. The Parliament discussed and issued recommendations and a report for implementation by the MPs. Hon. Diallo attributed the cause of the global problem, to "underdevelopment and lack of solidarity." He said:

"...echoing the Parliament, I can say that the root cause of the revolting trade in persons is the unequal development of the world's regions, the disparities in development levels in the different states within our community, in short, the continent's state of under-development, evident in the glaring lack of industries, companies, and services that can provide jobs to millions of unemployed youth."

In the keynote address, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Executive Secretary, ECOWAS Secretariat, spoke on ECOWAS' work and policies on anti-trafficking. The Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS issued a Political Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, in Dakar, Senegal in 2001. They adopted an ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, which was to be implemented in 2002-2003 by member states and has now been extended to 2005. He explained that the Plan of Action focuses on evolving adequate criminal justice responses within states. The idea of the sub-regional approach to the problem, presented at the 23rd Session of ECOWAS in 2000, aims at the development of joint policies and initiatives at the sub-regional level to address the problem of trafficking. The Plan of Action



Dep. Assouman Nohoum (Benin); Dep. Fanta Diarra (Mali); Dep. Amath Dansokho (Senegal)



Chief Mao Ohuabunwa, MP (Nigeria), First Treasurer, ECOWAS Parliament; Hon. Hawa Yakuba, MP (Ghana)

also lists implementation mechanisms and identifies national and international partners for collaboration. Dr. Chambas further elaborated that:

“... I see this workshop organized by PGA at the initiative of the Nigerian National Assembly as not only timely but extremely important, as a means of mobilizing legislative and political action within the ranks of parliamentarians throughout our sub-region in order to mainstream anti-trafficking measures within relevant national agencies.”

He concluded by expressing that he looks forward for more fruitful collaboration between PGA and ECOWAS.

On the second day of the seminar, H.E. Chief Mrs. Amina Atiku Titi Abubakar, wife of the Vice-President of Nigeria and founder of the Women’s Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), served as the luncheon guest speaker. As a result of her efforts, the government created National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

The first panel, chaired by Sen. Daisy Danjuma (Nigeria) discussed the phenomena and categories of trafficking in persons. Dep. Madeline Thea (Guinea Conakry) spoke on the vulnerability of women and children to trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced prostitution. Mr. Steven Most, International Organization for Migration (IOM), spoke on the smuggling of migrants and elaborated on the complexities of the asylum system.

A representative of the International Labor Organization (ILO) discussed the trafficking of children for the purpose of forced labor such as domestic servants and agriculture and how child labour is closely

related to trafficking. There are 5 million children at work in the world. In Nigeria, as in the sub-region, the problem is widespread. Children are usually coerced into being trafficked. Using children for domestic work is a very common part of the phenomena. It is traditional practice in the region to give up children for domestic work or to be raised by more affluent relatives or friends. They are often denied educational opportunities and are exploited sexually by their employers. ILO works on withdrawal and recovery of child domestic workers.

Health issues for victims of trafficking were discussed by a representative of the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health. Mr. Sidia Sana Jatta, MP (Gambia) provided information on the condition of trafficking in Gambia and elaborated on the importance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter of Human Rights as the legal basis for combating trafficking in human beings and child trafficking in particular.

The second panel addressed the legal aspects of fighting human trafficking. While two Nigerian law professors underscored the need to implement international treaties in West African legal systems, a representative of the International Organization of Migration (IOM) described the importance of enhanced inter-State cooperation within the region and among regions to effectively tackle human trafficking. PGA’s legal advisor affirmed that human trafficking is a crime against humanity and that international law attributes individual criminal responsibility for those who perpetrate aid or abet these serious crimes, as well as to those superiors responsible for not having prevented their occurrence. In fact, human trafficking cannot take place without the enslavement of the victim, and all States have the duty to prevent and repress slav-

ery and the slave trade under international law as incorporated in all modern “Penal Codes.”

During the debate, it emerged that the current policies and regulations restricting or banning migration from poor to rich countries is indeed a factor of the proliferation of human trafficking. In the absence of a world where there is free movement of persons, migrants would not run the risk of becoming illegal migrants and lose the protection of the law, which will make them more vulnerable to the moral and material coercions exercised by traffickers, whose goal is to obtain the control over such migrants and exploit them against their will.

The third panel examined strategies for removing root causes. The project officer for WOTCLEF addressed the political economy of trafficking. A representative of the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime Prevention (UNODC) explained how trafficking is part of international organized crime and the ramifications of the financial profit involved in trafficking. An MP from Liberia spoke on the use of child soldiers as a form of trafficking.

In the fourth and fifth panels, parliamentarians from each member state gave country status reports and reviewed the different approaches against trafficking. Nigeria, being the most advanced in the implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol against Trafficking, was used as a model. Ghana is also in the process of introducing a bill for implementation in Parliament while Mali has a bilateral agreement with Cote d’Ivoire. An MP from Senegal discussed the country’s legalized prostitution and its impact on cooperation. Lastly, discussions followed on cooperation among ECOWAS member states and between Africa and Europe.

By the end of the seminar, participants had identified some of the causes of trafficking as being poverty and/or civil strife particularly in the trafficking of children for the purposes of being used as child soldiers; the breakdown of social support systems that leaves women and children vulnerable to being trafficking for sexual exploitation or prostitution; discrimination and persecution; environmental disasters as well as the traditional practice of sending children to families and friends to be domestic workers or to be raised by more affluent relatives. Corruption, mismanagement and bad governance in the North and South facilitate trafficking. Participants argued that there is a need for establishing, or in the case where already present, implementation of legal instruments at the national and regional level that will protect women and children most vulnerable to malicious intents of traffickers.

The seminar produced a parliamentary resolution committing participating parliamentarians to ratify and implement international conventions at the national level; establish a program of assistance and pre-

vention programs for women and children; provide financial and human resources through budgetary measures; sensitize the public and create public support; and promote international cooperation against trafficking.

In addition to the formal discussions, PGA held separate side-meetings between the multi-party three member delegation from Cote d'Ivoire and the ECOWAS Parliament Speaker Hon. Diallo and ECOWAS Executive Secretary Dr. Chambas. Hon. Mollé Mollé (Cote d'Ivoire), Deputy President of the National Assembly, was also interviewed by the BBC by teleconference from Paris, in which he spoke about the seminar. The event generated widespread press coverage as trafficking is an issue of great concern for the media and civil society in Nigeria and the sub-region.

For PGA, this regional meeting was the first in a global series of parliamentary seminars and projects on human trafficking. Other regions to be included will be: Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Southeast Asia.*



Participants at the PGA Parliamentary Seminar on Human Trafficking in West Africa

PGA ADDRESSES CRISIS IN HAITI

PGA worked in Haiti from 1993 to 1995; it sent three missions and brought Haitian legislators to Washington, D.C., Ottawa, Canada and Miami, Florida. PGA also sent an election observer mission for the parliamentary elections in 1995 in collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS).

When political instability arose in Haiti in February 2004 and President Aristide was removed from power, PGA held conference calls among its members to hear diverse perspectives and to strategize a response to the crisis. Dep. Lamine Thiam (Senegal), Convenor of the PGA's Peace and Democracy Program, had consultations with Ms. Francine Lalonde, MP (Canada), Rep. Donald Payne (United States), Dip. Minou Tavarez Mirabal (Dominican Republic) and Dep. Harlem Desir (France).

Following the discussions, PGA members gathered at the Ibero-American and Lusophone Conference on the International Criminal Court, in Brasilia, Brazil, in March 25- 26, 2004. They discussed the crisis, recommitted PGA to assist Haiti to consolidate democracy and passed a resolution that called on the newly formed government and the international community to take appropriate steps to bring democracy, good governance and development to Haiti.

IBERO-AMERICAN AND LUSOPHONE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

PGA convened the Ibero-American and Lusophone Parliamentary Conference on the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Brasilia, Brazil in collaboration with the Federal Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), and the Ministry of Human Rights of Brazil. The Brasilia Conference brought together 150 parliamentarians from 25 countries in Latin America, Africa and Europe and 500 governmental representatives, ICC officials, civil society experts and academics from Ibero-American and the Lusophone states to discuss political support for the ICC.

Brazilian authorities expressed the commitment of the three branches of the Brazilian government to the ICC. President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva sent a message to the participants stressing the significance of the Court and affirming that multilateralism and the fight against impunity are cornerstones of Brazil's foreign policy. Brazilian PGA member Dep. Orlando Fantazzini, chair of the final session of the conference said, "Brazil is committed to encouraging the remaining Latin American and Portuguese-speaking countries to ratify and implement the Rome Statute, and to protect the ICC from any initiatives that attempt to undermine its pursuit of international justice."

ICC Judge Sylvia Steiner traveled from The Hague to her home country to deliver the keynote speech which reported on the Court's progress and emphasized that the ICC reinforces rather than erodes national sovereignty – a common misconception that has led to some opposition. In the discussions, parliamentarians from non-States Parties described the ratification processes in their countries. The Speaker of the Parliament of Mozambique, Dep. Eduardo Mulémbwe, and Chilean PGA member, Dip. Gabriel Ascencio, outlined the con-

stitutional and political obstacles to ratification in their countries. PGA members such as Dep. Aristides Lima (Cape Verde) Speaker of the Parliament, Dep. Diógenes Boavida (Angola), and Dr. Ruth Wijdenbosch, MP (Suriname) Vice-President of the Parliament, explained that ICC support in their countries is strong and that the ratification process could be completed this year. As had been suggested by Ambassador Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo, Legal Advisor of Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, these updates demonstrate that despite the loss of momentum, 100 ratifications by the end of 2004 are within reach. Progress in Mexico, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic reported at the conference could further contribute to this goal. Sen. César Jaúregui (Mexico) and Dep. Eliana García (Mexico) explained that the necessary legislation is moving forward, while a change of government has reinvigorated support for the ICC in Guatemala and elections in the Dominican Republic has promoted discussions on ratification, which have been led by PGA member Dip. Minou Tavárez Mirabal (Dominican Republic).

On the Brazilian implementation, an important impasse was broken at the conference. Former PGA member and current Human Rights Minister Nilmario Miranda announced that after more than a year at the Chief of Staff Office due to technical issues, the implementation bill will now proceed to his Ministry where those issues will be resolved and the bill presented to the Congress promptly. Civil society experts joined Ms. Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi of the Office of the Prosecutor in emphasizing the importance of complementarity and cooperation with the ICC, as well as the importance of ratifying the Agreement of Privileges and Immunities of the Court. Sen. Marcelo López Arias (Argentina) and Sen. Vilma Ibarra (Argentina) explained



Dep. Maria José Maninha (Brazil) President of COPA;
Hon. Nilmario Miranda (Brazil) Minister of Human Rights



Dip. Margarita Stolbizer (Argentina) Chair, PGA
International Council; Sen. Alain Destexhe (Belgium)
Convenor, International Law and Human Rights Programme



Judge Sylvia Steiner, International Criminal Court; Dep.
Orlando Fantazzini (Brazil); Dep. Inocêncio Oliveira
(Brazil) Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies



Dr. Celso Luiz Limongi, President, APAMAGIS; Mr. Juan Kim, Programme Officer, International Law and Human Rights



Dep. Alberto Costa (Portugal); Sen. Marcelo Lopez Arias (Argentina)

that despite the delays in the approval of the implementing legislation by the Constitutional Affairs Committee, PGA Argentina remains committed to speeding up the process so that the obstacles may soon be overcome.

United States efforts to obtain bilateral non-surrender agreements stirred strong sentiments among the participants in the panel chaired by Sen. Alain Destexhe (Belgium) Convenor of PGA's International Law and Human Rights Programme. Dip. Margarita Stolbizer, (Argentina), Chair of PGA's International Council, Dip. Luis Gerardo Villanueva (Costa Rica), Dip. Ricardo Ulcuango (Ecuador) and Dip. Felipe Michelini (Uruguay) spoke of their parliamentary initiatives rejecting these types of agreements, reinforcing the principles of no impunity and equality before the law. Civil society groups also praised the objections of legislators from Bolivia and El Salvador, where the executives have submitted the signed agreements for approval and are under consideration by the Parliament. Brazil also presented a strong stance on this issue; the Legal Advisor of its Foreign Relations Ministry, Prof. Cachapuz de Medeiros, summarized the government's view that the bilateral agreements and UN

Security Council resolution 1422/1487 run counter to the letter and spirit of the Rome Statute.

In the declaration adopted at the Brasilia Conference, parliamentarians agreed to push for 100 ratifications in 2004, to promote implementing legislation on the ICC, and to protect the Court from initiatives that attempt to undermine its integrity and effectiveness. The full text of the Brasilia Declaration can be found in English, Portuguese, and Spanish at http://www.pgaction.org/prog_inte_upco.asp?id=166.

The Brasilia Conference prompted other parliamentary initiatives in support of the ICC. In the week following the annual meeting of the Inter-parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) held in Santiago, Chile, PGA members such as Dip. Stolbizer who attended the Brasilia Conference, introduced an article that calls for the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute to the final recommendations of the forum. As a result of the success of the conference, Dep. Maria José Maninha (Brazil) President of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) has decided to make the ICC one of the priorities of that inter-parliamentary body. She also became

a member of PGA along with 15 new parliamentarians from Ibero-America and the Lusophone countries, which strengthens PGA's membership in these regions. PGA and COPA will again join forces and support the initiative of Chilean NGO La Morada to champion the gender protection accomplishments of the Rome Statute among woman parliamentarians in Latin America.

PGA's "Parliamentary Kit on the ICC," an informative packet of the documents written for parliamentarians, was distributed at the conference and has been disseminated by the participants to other parliamentarians in their respective countries. The Kit is available in English, Spanish, and French at http://www.pgaction.org/prog_inte.asp.*

“Brazil is committed to encouraging the remaining Latin American and Portuguese-speaking countries to ratify and implement the Rome Statute, and to protect the ICC from any initiatives that attempt to undermine its pursuit of international justice.”

Dep. Orlando Fantazzini (Brazil)

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS



By Dr. Kimmo Kiljunen, MP (Finland), member of PGA

When former WTO Director-General Mike Moore met parliamentarians in Geneva, his first word was “transparency.” That meant to him meeting parliamentarians. The World Bank President James Wolfenson tours international parliamentary gatherings no less energetically. Speeches by the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan likewise often include a call for a parliamentary dimension in his organisation.

There has been progress from words to deeds too. The first parliamentary conference on World Bank was held in the Hague in year 2000. Since then, these conferences are organised annually by the Parliamentary Network for the World Bank. Similarly a parliamentary forum under the auspices of the WTO is in the works. European Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) are organising annual parliamentary conferences on world trade. There are even plans to establish a permanent WTO Parliamentary Assembly.

In year 2000 the UN’s Millennium Session was solemnised by an assembly of the speakers of all of the world’s parliaments. It was organised by the IPU, now over a century old, which aims to become a parliamentary wing for the UN.

All of this is new. What has gotten into the leaders of international organisations? Why are they vying with each other in their eagerness to attach parliamentary bodies to their organisations? Are they hoping parliamentarians will give them a shield against demonstrators hurling rotten tomatoes and administering cream pies?

The major demonstrations from Seattle to Prague have been undoubtedly a reminder of the democratic deficit from which international organisations suffer. Where trust should be, there is now an abyss of suspicion between global decision making and civil societies. Now, if we want to redress that, who other than deputies elected at the ballot box are better placed to speak as representatives of citizens?

However, the problem lies deeper. What is at stake is globalisation, a shrinking of our world. Many central issues of society have become common to all of humankind. Environmental problems, capital flows and trade, population growth, security, international crime, migration and refugees are phenomena that can no longer be addressed within the framework of national sovereignty only. Global decision making is requested.

So far, however, representative democracy has been confined to nation states. Supranational democracy is only taking its embryonic hesitant steps. There is no patent model for it to follow.

Supranational decision making is being implemented initially on a regional level. The process has been taken furthest in Europe today, where the EU has the first directly-elected supranational parliament in the world history. It is not yet a fully-fledged legislature, however. The Council of Ministers is the primary legislator.

The EU is not progressing towards a federal state, as the matter is frequently misleadingly presented. It is by essence *sui generis*. As globalisation advances, national sovereignty is no longer what it used to be. There is a need for shared sovereignty. The first institutions of the post-nation-state world system are emerging from the EU.

The EU is the only international organisation having a supranational, legislative function. Nevertheless, many other organisations have also established their own parliamentary bodies, although not legislative ones. The Council of Europe and the OSCE both have their parliamentary assemblies, as have NATO and the WEU.

Going beyond Europe, both the Commonwealth and its Francophone counterpart La Communauté have parliamentary assemblies. Latin America, Africa and South-East Asia as well as the Islamic countries likewise have interparliamentary bodies of their own. The same goes for the Russian-led Commonwealth of Independent States.

The representatives of all of these assemblies are appointed by the national parliaments of member states. Now, on top of everything else, global organisations like the UN, the WTO and the World Bank have plans to create their own parliamentary wings.

All well. The international organisations will become more transparent and more accountable. Deputies will obtain global information to help them in national decision making. But do parliamentarians have enough time to perambulate from one international parliamentary meeting to another? A division of labour and coordination is needed. There is a potential role for the IPU as a common institution of the parliamentarians in the world but it must to reform itself.

Nevertheless, the parliamentary bodies of international organisations are of secondary importance from the perspective of representative democracy. That is because they are intergovernmental in character. The main emphasis must be on how to organize proper and comprehensive national scrutiny of governments at home. The ministers responsible for decisions at international organisations would have to obtain a mandate from their respective parliaments. After all, that is how parliamentary monitoring is effected in EU affairs in the member countries.

Deputies could also be, more broadly, members of national delegations to the main conferences of international organisations. After all, it is not only demonstrators but also parliamentarians should have a say in the development of global governance.

Dr. Kimmo Kiljunen is the vice-president of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and former member of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) International Council. At the moment he is also the deputy chair of the parliamentary network on World Bank as well as a member of the Preparatory Committee for the WTO conference of parliamentarians.

MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT

Interview with Mr. Moses Mzila-Ndlovu, MP (Zimbabwe), MDC Shadow Foreign Minister

1. Why did you decide to join PGA?

As a member of the opposition, we regard PGA as a viable platform that gives the opportunity to members of the opposition to articulate problems we encounter in Parliament. This is particularly important for Zimbabwe, where we have very little independent media. PGA is doing an excellent job in bringing in together people from different parts of the world to share experiences. I felt it was important to be part of an organization that advances the values of representation of people, democracy, good governance, justice and is against the deprivation of basic freedoms. PGA is doing good job addressing these issues. PGA dealt extensively with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the last meeting. For those of us being prosecuted in our country unjustly, PGA was doing good job in advancing justice, which motivated me to join.

PGA brings together a broad group of people with diverse ideological persuasions. The international community needs this coming together to talk and understand why some don't agree. This is very important. We are in an era of a New World Order. The coming together of different viewpoints contributes to conflict resolution. PGA provides a way to resolve differences in international fora. I joined so we can articulate our way of interpreting issues. We live in a global village and unity as a human value is very important and I want to participate in an organization that does advance common human values.

2. What are your main interests?

The internationalization of common human values. What I desire in this part of the world is, in my view, also desired by others in other parts of the world. To me this is important; to see that there are accepted human values that seem to be the main motivation that inspire people. We need to discover one another, our aspirations and objectives as people. This unity at the international level may begin to put pressure on individuals that do not share these val-

ues and that are denying rights. This may improve human rights and good governance. The international community can help us in demanding that Zimbabweans are not a different species but are human and we need our rights respected. I want to see this pressure of common values to bear on individuals that do not grant rights; it can help to bring justice and fundamental freedoms.

3. How long have you been involved in politics and what motivated you to become a parliamentarian?

I have been in politics since I was 23 years old; since 1975. I was a student activist during the period when the movement for independence was going on. I was part of ZAPU, which was destroyed by ZANU. I became an MP after the forming of MDC. I am the Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister. I want to stand up with and for the people and to bring change so Parliament can no longer be used as an institution which all along has been used as an arm of the governing party. I joined Parliament because we need to salvage Parliament as a pillar of independent institution.

4. What has been your most memorable or rewarding PGA experience so far?

The 25th Anniversary Tribute and the New York meeting on Parliamentary Assembly for the ICC and the Rule of Law. When we traveled with the main party outside the country, we begin to appreciate one another not just as members of opposition.*



Mr. Moses Mzila-Ndlovu, MP (Zimbabwe) MDC



Mr. Lazarus Dokora, MP (Zimbabwe) ZANU-PF; Ms. Nebiyat Woldemichael, Programme Officer, Peace and Democracy Programme; Mr. Gibson Munyoro, MP (Zimbabwe) ZANU-PF

PGA'S WORK ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION

In late 2003 to early 2004, PGA's Sustainable Development and Population Programme (SDP) continued its work promoting the goals and objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its ten year anniversary taking place September 2004. PGA, as a member of the Steering Committee for the Parliamentary Conference on ICPD (IPCI), participated in the Committee's meeting held in Brussels, Belgium in October of 2003. The meeting involved presentations of participating parliamentary networks on their activities towards achieving the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action. Mr. Tony Worthington, MP (United Kingdom), Convenor of the SDP Programme, presented on PGA's work towards the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The delegation also took active part in discussing and affirming the plans for the upcoming Second IPCI Conference to be held in Strasbourg, France in October of 2004.



Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana) Second Deputy Speaker and PGA President; Mr. Niklas Enander, JPO, Nigeria



Parliamentary Seminar on Budgeting, Bamako, Mali (December 2003)

On November 14, 2003, Ms. Ulrika Broback, PGA's Junior Project Officer (JPO) working at the National Assembly of Mali, was invited to attend the monthly donor meeting with all representatives of the European Union in Mali at the Dutch Embassy. At the meeting, Ms. Broback introduced PGA's work and her mission as a JPO to the ambassadors of the European Commission, France, Holland, Belgium, Sweden, U.K. and Germany. She also gave a short outline of the three missions of the National Assembly, followed by an analysis of the present parliamentary capacity situation with regard to human capital and administrative resources. The participants showed a great interest in the PGA network and specifically in the SDP Programme.

issues within the budget framework. Upon the completion of the seminar, the participants requested that PGA arrange a follow-up meeting focusing on parliamentary budgeting procedures.

On December 16, 2003, PGA launched a much needed and immensely popular English language course for the deputies of the National Assembly of Mali. The English course was officially opened by Dep. Oumar Kanoute, the Fifth Vice-President, Dep. Oumou Ba Sangare, First Vice-President and Mr. Dan Hamilton of the U.S Embassy in Bamako. The course currently includes 81 participants with four hours of training a week.

Due to a high number of newly elected deputies without previous parliamentary work experience, Malian legislators requested a budget seminar to provide an overview of the basic elements of the budget procedure. The PGA network in Mali arranged a budget seminar which took place on December 5-6, 2003 at the Malian National Assembly. The seminar was officially opened by the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly, Dep. Assarid Ag Imbarcaouane, Dep. Boubou Koita, President of PGA National Group in Mali and Swedish representative Mr. Anders Östman. The objective of the seminar was to assist the deputies in analyzing budgets and to exchange experiences from budget procedures in Europe. The seminar provided deputies with an overview of the basic elements of a budget procedure with particular emphasis on sustainable development and population

Under the supervision of Ms. Broback, the Malian National Group of PGA has commenced producing and distributing a quarterly four-page Bulletin where different population and development issues are highlighted by the parliamentarians. Approximately 200 copies are printed per edition and distributed in parliament as well as to NGOs and donor agencies. The Bulletin provides a venue for informing legislators on the issues at hand.

Mr. Niklas Enander, PGA's JPO in Nigeria helped organize the Parliamentary Seminar on Human Trafficking in West Africa in collaboration with ECOWAS and the ECOWAS Secretariat which took place February 24-25, 2004 in Abuja, Nigeria. The seminar was successful in addressing the causes of human trafficking and identifying methods to combat and prevent the phenomena in the region.*



Parliamentary Seminar on Human Trafficking in West Africa, Abuja, Nigeria (February 2004): Hon. Fatoumata J. Cessay, MP (Gambia) Fourth Deputy Speaker, ECOWAS Parliament; Hon. Elizabeth Alpha-Lavalie, MP (Sierra Leone) Deputy Speaker; Ms. Carol Ndaguba, Executive Secretary, NAFTIP



Dep. Boubou Koita (Mali); Ms. Ulrika Broback, JPO, Mali

SECOND SESSION OF THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR THE ICC AND THE RULE OF LAW

PGA convened the Second Session of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law, which took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York on September 12-13, 2003. Approximately 140 politicians from 68 countries interacted with experts from the ICC, NGOs, governments and the academia. Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, Prosecutor for the ICC, delivered an inspiring key-note address to the Assembly calling for parliamentary cooperation and support for the Court's effective operation.

In addition to the ongoing themes of ratification, implementation, and protecting the integrity of the Rome Statute, legislators debated the possibility of creating a parliamentary assembly for the ICC. Sen. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada) chaired the panel on this topic, while Mr. Alban Bagbin, MP (Ghana), leader of the opposition and Prof. Longin Pastusiak, (Poland) President of the Senate, began the debate by stressing the important role of parliamentary institutions in supporting the ICC. Though opinions varied regarding the need and scope of this institutional development, consensus was found on the continuation of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC on an informal basis at the present time.

Experts were invited to address various issues of concern and to stimulate dialogue among parliamentarians from all regions of the world. Mr. Lincoln P. Bloomfield Jr., Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs at the United States Department of State, addressed the assembly on

the US position towards the ICC. Legislators engaged in a spirited dialogue with Mr. Bloomfield on the contentious issue of bilateral agreements that seek to exempt US nationals from the trials before the Court. This was the first time that a US official agreed to discuss the ICC in an open parliamentary forum since the decision of the current Administration to withdraw signature from the Statute. The input provided by Mr. Bloomfield and other experts was much appreciated by the participating parliamentarians who seized the occasion to ask numerous questions. Parliamentarians also took an active part in the proceedings by presenting their countries' position on the issues in the agenda. For example, PGA Members Dr. Adrian Severin, MP (Romania) and Dip. Felipe Micheline (Uruguay), affirmed that their unequivocal support for the principle of equality before the law has had a concrete impact on their countries' position on the bilateral agreements. In Romania, the first country to sign a bilateral agreement, government statements indicate that the Executive will not submit the agreement for ratification to Parliament because the parliamentary leadership anticipated its rejection. A similar scenario may soon materialize in Uruguay, and has already developed in neighboring Paraguay.

Participants found the Assembly's materials and debates of significant interest and relevance for their day-to-day work as policy-makers. For some who had never participated in a PGA event or were not entirely familiar with issues related to ICC ratification and implementation, the As-

sembly was particularly enlightening and enabled them to contribute to the Forum and its follow-up despite their previously limited awareness of the Court.

The overall objective of PGA's annual Consultative Assembly is to bridge the awareness gap between important issues in the global agenda, such as the effective functioning of the ICC, and how they are perceived at the national level by parliamentarians and their constituencies. The Consultative Assembly has served to enhance the global level of understanding and support for the ICC among parliamentarians from all regions of the world

In addition to the Consultative Assembly, PGA hosted a discussion on the rule of law at its 25th Anniversary Tribute in Washington, D.C. held on September 16, 2003. H.E. Mrs. Carla Del Ponte, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and former Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), called for the full cooperation of states in the arrest and surrender of indicted war criminals, and reminded MPs of their responsibility to enact legislation on international justice. PGA President, Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana), called on his American counterparts to partake in discussions on the ICC to reach a common understanding on the matter. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (United States) stressed the importance of the rule of law as a core foundation of democracy and for the protection of human rights. *

H.E. Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, Prosecutor for the ICC



Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana) Second Deputy Speaker and PGA President; H.E. Mr. Pierre Schori, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN and Chair, PGA UN Committee



PEER-TO-PEER DIALOGUE AMONG AFRICAN AND UNITED STATES LEGISLATORS

Role of Parliamentarians in Peacemaking and Peacebuilding: Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Zimbabwe and ECOWAS

PGA organized a briefing on Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Among African and United States Legislators: Parliamentary Peacemaking in the cases of Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Zimbabwe and ECOWAS, hosted by PGA member, Rep. Donald Payne (United States) on September 17, 2003 in the US Congress, Washington, D.C. Parliamentarians from Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ghana, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe and from the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met and exchanged views with US members of Congress Rep. Payne, Rep. Meeks, Rep. McCollum, and Rep. Frank on the crisis in Africa. Other participants included special guest Mr. Moses Katjuongua (Namibia), former MP and former PGA International President, and observers, former MP, Mr. Ahmed Farrah (Kenya) and a representative of the African-American Institute.

Rep. Payne (United States) commended African nations and leaders for taking a greater responsibility, as in Somalia, for resolving conflicts in Africa. Using the example of US presidents who have honored a limit of two terms in office since the time of former President Theodore Roosevelt, Rep. Payne strongly urged African leaders to respect the constitutions of their countries and step down from office at the end of their term limits. "We should also work to overcome the language barrier of Francophone and Anglophone Africa," he said, "and we should work together and not have religion play a factor."

Rep. Barney Frank (United States), senior ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services and Institutions, is concerned with policies of multilateral institutions and works to promote debt relief and improvement of institutional fund-

ing vis-a-vis Africa. Rep. Betty McCollum (United States) spoke of her work on women and children's issues, and HIV/AIDS in Africa through the House International Relations Committee, House Subcommittee on Africa, and Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Rep. Gregory Meeks (United States) believed that the problems in Africa could be resolved by those present and their counterparts in the African Union.

Dep. Mamadou Lamine Thiam (Senegal) described how Africans are taking actions to resolve their own conflicts, as seen with the ECOWAS interventions in Liberia and Sierra Leone and the leadership role taken by African parliamentarians in PGA's interventions in Cote d'Ivoire. African parliamentarians believe in the effectiveness of parliamentary diplomacy. Mr. Alban Bagbin, MP (Ghana) reported on PGA's May 2003 Mission to Zimbabwe where a delegation of PGA MPs conducted informal dialogues with their colleagues in the parliament of Zimbabwe. Rep. Payne added that the issue of Zimbabwe is very complex; it is not an issue of race because more black Zimbabweans have died than white Zimbabweans.

Dr. Irwin Cotler, MP (Canada), Minister of Justice and Attorney General, remarked that Canada is very committed to Africa, particularly in the areas of HIV/AIDS and preventing the exploitation of natural resources. "The issue of Africa must include food aid, massive humanitarian assistance, and protection of human security," Dr. Cotler said. "Human rights abuses must be put on trial and prosecuted. The international alarm bells must be sounded to avert the humanitarian crisis that looms in Africa." Mr. Jeppe Kofod, MP (Denmark) argued that rich countries who have pledged to support the UN Millennium Goals (MDG)



Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana), Second Deputy Speaker and PGA President; Rep. Donald Payne (United States)



Hon. Irwin Cotler, MP (Canada), Minister of Justice and Attorney-General

“Human rights abuses must be put on trial and prosecuted. The international alarm bells must be sounded to avert the humanitarian crisis that looms in Africa.”

Dr. Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice, Canada

fulfill their promise to provide development assistance for poverty reduction Africa. Denmark contributes 5% of its GDP towards foreign policy and development assistance program. In comparison, for a country its size, the US contributes 0.1% of its GDP in these areas.

Former PGA President Mr. Moses Katjuongua (Namibia) stressed that Africans should avoid divisions along ethnic and religious lines. Every citizen of an African country should have the opportunity to be elected. In Liberia, more is needed than bringing Charles Taylor to justice; in Zimbabwe leaders must move from a liberation party to a democratic party. Mr. David Coltart, MP (Zimbabwe) added that “the greater tragedy is that Zimbabwe was regarded the jewel of Africa and it has been destroyed. Bad governance must be addressed. If the international community does not act, it will get much worse.” Dr. Eddison Zvobgo, MP (Zimbabwe) was unable to attend the session at the last minute due to health reasons.

Sen. Sanusi Daggash, (Nigeria) noted that Nigeria has troops in Liberia but the region needs strong US leadership and support in that country. The conflict in Liberia, and the resulting instability in Guinea and the Mano River Union region, are flowing directly into Cote d’Ivoire. Sen. Daggash strongly urged his US colleagues to press their government to take strong action. Rep. Payne agreed that the US needs to improve its support of Nigeria in Liberia. He ensured that the Congressional Black Caucus will work to better the US commitment in the region. Deputy Speaker, Dep. Molle Molle (Cote d’Ivoire) and Dep. Dabieuh E. Williams Ateby (Cote d’Ivoire) also exhorted the US members to advocate for US government involvement in the conflict in

their country.

Dep. Mountaga Tall (Mali), member of the ECOWAS Parliament and its Committee on Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, Defense and Security, spoke on the role of the ECOWAS Parliament in conflict prevention in West Africa. Parliamentarians complement the efforts of the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat through mobilization of their constituents to support peace efforts. To prevent further destabilization in the region, the ECOWAS Parliament, through his Committee, undertook three peace missions to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea in 2002-2003 that contributed significantly to the peace agreement in Liberia. Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah, MP (Ghana), Deputy Speaker and President of PGA, in closing remarks, agreed that parliamentarians and their colleagues can continue to be effective in bringing peace, stability and development to West Africa. The US members committed to working with PGA members in their peacemaking efforts.*



Rep. Gregory Meeks (United States); Rep. Betty McCollum (United States); Rep. Barney Frank (United States)



Mr. Jeppe Kofod, MP (Denmark); Mr. Adolf Mwesige, MP (Uganda)



Dep. Mamadou Lamine Thiam (Senegal),
Convenor, Peace and Democracy Programme

MAYORS FOR PEACE

The third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) took place April 26 - May 7, 2004 at United Nations Headquarters. A delegation from Mayors for Peace participated at the Prepcom.

On April 28, 2004, PGA's Secretary-General, Ms. Shazia Z. Rafi, held a dinner at her residence in honor of Mr. Tadatishi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Parliamentarians for Global Action for their kind assistance during my recent trip to New York.

The Mayors for Peace participation in the UN NPT Prepcom was an extremely satisfying experience. Our success can best be summarized by the words of some of the participating mayors and city representatives:

"I am so grateful that I got this chance to come to New York."

"Though I was unsure what would happen before I came, I found the whole experience quite invigorating."

"Despite the fact that the national delegates we talked with said our goal of abolishing nuclear weapons by 2020 is difficult, I became even more convinced that we can accomplish it."

Mayors for Peace will continue to arouse the international public in favor of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons by the year 2020, and we will do everything we can to ensure that the NPT Review Conference in May 2005 produces concrete plans for nuclear abolition, the fervent desire of A-bomb survivors and people of conscience around the world.

Without PGA's warm and generous support, the Mayors for Peace would not have been able to launch a meaningful Emergency Campaign. I am forever grateful and hope that you will continue to be fully involved.

Mr. Tadatishi Akiba
Mayor, City of Hiroshima
President, Mayors for Peace



H.E. Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament; Ms. Shazia Rafi, PGA Secretary-General; Mr. Tadatishi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace; Sen. Doug Roche and his wife.



Mr. Aaron Tovish, Coordinator, Mayors for Peace and former Deputy Secretary-General for PGA; Sen. Doug Roche (Canada)



Mayors for Peace delegation to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), United Nations Headquarters.



Mayor Akiba at the dinner in his honor at Ms. Shazia Rafi's residence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PEACE & DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| June 1, 2004 | Peace and Democracy Programme Strategy Meeting (New York, NY) |
| June 3-4, 2004 | Seminar on Parliamentary Ethics and Accountability (Washington, DC) |
| October 2004 | Regional seminar on capacity building for Parliamentary Committees on Security Issues (Kampala, Uganda) |
| February 2005 | ECOWAS Seminar on Regional Security and Conflict Management (Abuja, Nigeria) |

INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| August 6-7, 2004 | PGA Participation in the conference “The ICC and Gender Justice: Obstacles to the ratification and implementation process of the region” (Santiago, Chile) |
| September 6-10, 2004 | PGA participation at the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC (The Hague, The Netherlands) |
| September 12-15, 2004 | Delegation of Mexican legislators visiting the International Criminal Court in The Hague (The Hague, The Netherlands) |
| December 6-7, 2004 | A Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law – III session (Wellington, New Zealand) |

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION PROGRAM

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Fall 2004 | Mediterranean Regional Seminar on Clean Air/Clean Water: parliamentary follow-up to the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development (Venue to be determined) |
| January 2005 | South Asian parliamentary seminar on HIV/AIDS (Islamabad, Pakistan) |
| Winter 2005 | Renewable Energy Exchange, Canada to Nigeria (Abuja, Nigeria) |

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Ibero-American and Lusophone Parliamentary Conference on the ICC, Brasilia, Brazil (March 2004)

PGA WELCOMES

118 NEW MEMBERS FROM 38 PARLIAMENTS

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