



Parliamentarians for Global Action

PGA UN Newsletter

September 2010

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the inaugural Issue of the Monthly PGA UN Newsletter!

This new initiative has its genesis in, and has come about as a result of several requests made by a number of PGA members in recent months for some sort of a reader friendly monthly report/summary of what is going on at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and in particular those events that may be of particular interest/relevance to our collective work within PGA. Many of you simply do not have the time that is necessary to trawl through available announcements and the UN website to keep regularly up to date as to what is going on. Our hope, therefore, is that in providing this reader-friendly, to-the-point monthly overview, we will in turn facilitate and, help you, our Members, to stay up to date on what are the main issues under consideration at the UN at any given time and how you wish to incorporate them into your own advocacy work, as time permits.

The format for the PGA UN Newsletter is deliberately simple.

There are two objectives.

- ❖ The first is straight forward – to provide you with factual data in what is actually going on
- ❖ The second is subjective – to highlight, briefly, how one or more particular issues transect with ongoing PGA programme work

We're as new to this as you are so we welcome any suggestions you may wish to make in terms of how we can provide you with this monthly newsletter in a manner which most effectively meets your needs. And if something strikes you as being of particular interest to you and your work, just let us know 'bilaterally' and we'll do our best to see if we can track down additional information for you.

Lastly, many of you from time to time attend United Nations meetings in New York. We want to encourage all of you, when you know that you will be attending these meetings, just to let us know so we can arrange for you to drop by the office. There is never a substitute for a half-hour meeting/face-to-face contact with our Members. And if you're just passing through New York for any reason (you might simply be getting a visa and spending the night en route elsewhere) why not drop us a line and drop by for a visit? Coffee is on us!

Kind regards,

PGA Headquarters – New York

SEPTEMBER 2010

EVENTS AT UN

1. 20 – 22 September 2010

High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly

Website: <http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/>

Attainment of the MDGS has been an integral part of PGA's work for a number of years. Gender equality advancement is one of the MDGS and so the outcome of this High Level Plenary Meeting will be of particular interest to MPs involved in PGA's Health and Population Programme, especially in the lead up to our Annual Forum in Istanbul, Turkey next month which many of you are attending. PGA will be monitoring the proceedings and a number of our MPs will be in New York during this High Level Dialogue. If you are going to be here, but have yet to notify us, please do so as soon as possible so that we can brief you further and involve you in any PGA or PGA-related activities during this time. PGA will be closely monitoring proceedings, in particular the outcome document in the context of Health/HIV/AIDS and Gender Equality Advancement.

2. 23 – 30 September 2010

Sixty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly - General Debate

Website: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/65/index.shtml>

This is the annual UN segment where Heads of State/Prime Ministers from all of the 192 UN Member States make their own respective presentations within the UN GA on how they view the world in the year that has gone and the main challenges that are to follow. Once these presentations are completed at the end of the month, the different UN Committees will meet through December 2010 to discuss and agree on GA resolutions in their respective spheres of responsibility.

At PGA we will be tracking all deliberations, in particular closely monitoring the work of the First Committee (Disarmament) in particular this year, to the extent that any resolution adopted makes reference to the area of SALW and/or the proposed Arms Trade Treaty.

Kindly inform PGA if you intend to be in New York on UN related business from September-December 2010.

NGO EVENTS

1. 15 September 2010 'The Impact of MDG 3 On MDG 7 – WEDO' organized Session on how Women can contribute to the realization of sustainable development goals in collaboration with PGA

2. 23 September 2010 Digital Media Lounge, United Nations – Oxfam Session on 'Climate, Catastrophe, and the MDGs'. The main focus of this session will be the flood disaster in Pakistan and the Food Crisis in West Africa and the links between humanitarian catastrophes and MDG set backs.