



## Parliamentarians for Global Action

### PGA Media Statement on Ivory Coast

Along with the international community as a whole, PGA and its global membership of over 1,300 legislators in 131 countries worldwide, continues to follow, with ever deepening concern, the deteriorating situation in Cote d'Ivoire.

We believe, nonetheless, that a window of opportunity still exists to avoid needless further bloodshed and violence. We also, believe, however, that this window of opportunity is an increasingly narrow one and that decisive remedial action must be taken, within a very short period of time, to circumvent tragedy and further, utterly needless loss of life.

PGA again calls upon incumbent President Gbagbo to step aside and to allow President-elect Ouattara to assume all the functions of the office of Presidency, to which he has been duly elected by the people of Cote d'Ivoire, as confirmed by the United Nations and other international observers. PGA has reached out to the Speaker of the National Assembly and to the United Nations mission in Abidjan to offer its assistance with a peace-building mission.

PGA also recalls that by virtue of a formal Declaration of Acceptance, Cote d'Ivoire has accepted the full and binding jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for an unspecified period of time, in accordance with Article 12 (3) of the Rome Statute of the ICC. PGA therefore fully expects and anticipates that any breaches of the Rome Statute will be fully investigated and prosecuted by Cote d'Ivoire under complementarity with the knowledge that the ICC Prosecutor remains ready to play his role if necessary.

A peaceful, democratic transition of power is in the best interest of Cote d'Ivoire, the region and the international community. It is the ultimate patriotic act and we call upon our former colleague M. Gbagbo to act accordingly.