



Parliamentarians for Global Action
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي



CONGRESO DE LA NACIÓN
ARGENTINA



Buenos Aires/New York/The Hague, 14 June 2022

For the attention of

The Honourable Speaker/President of Parliament

Dear Honourable Speaker/President,

On behalf of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), it is our distinct honour to invite you to participate in the **43rd Annual Forum and 12th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law (CAP-ICC)**. The CAP-ICC, hosted by the **National Congress of Argentina in Buenos Aires**, will be held on **4-5 November 2022** in a hybrid format with in-person and online participation, and it will include the ceremony of the 2022 Defender of Democracy Award.

The CAP-ICC is the only high-level global gathering of political leaders focused solely on international justice and the Rule of Law. Since 2002, its meetings represented a unique opportunity for Lawmakers from all regions of the world to discuss and develop strategies towards reinforcing international and domestic justice and preventing international crimes while safeguarding the rights of victims and the accused. The impact of past deliberations of the CAP-ICC has been demonstrated by the achievements of PGA members, who have, as of today, contributed to 78 ratifications of the Rome Statute and played a key role in the national law-making process to implement the Statute in 37 States.

The ICC is the only permanent international jurisdiction with competence over genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. States created the ICC in Rome in 1998 to prevent the atrocities that characterized the past century, but the tragic war of aggression against Ukraine and ongoing atrocities in many situations in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East are demonstrating that abuses of powers and criminal conduct are still generating conflicts among States or Non-State Actors, bringing about immense suffering and victimization. And as atrocities and conflicts grow and escalate, they pose a threat to the very survival of humankind. Hence, ending the impunity of their perpetrators is an imperative for the International Community as a whole, today more than ever.

Regretfully, while the idea of the ICC as centre-piece of a global order based on the Rule of Law was embraced by the majority of small and medium powers in the world (123 States Parties), the super-powers decided to stay out of the Rome Statute system against impunity (China, India, Russia, US). Additionally, most authoritarian, or dictatorial regimes rejected ratification of the Rome Statute.

Against this background, the goal of the 12th CAP-ICC is to contribute to reverse the global trends that attempted to erode International Law, human rights, and democracy in the last two decades and reaffirm the central role of individual criminal responsibility in international relations and domestic affairs.

In this respect, Legislators can play a pivotal and dynamic role, but they may need support and dialogue with peers and experts to discuss strategies and effective responses to strengthen judicial and democratic institutions and provide adequate responses to human rights violations and aggressive wars. Since the creation of the ICC in 1998 and its entry into force in 2002, the International Community has taken a commitment to investigate and prosecute individuals responsible for international crimes. As the work of the ICC is characterized by challenges, the Rome Statute system needs the support of all relevant stakeholders to perform its mandate effectively: *There will never be sustainable peace without justice.*

In light of your prominent leadership role as Speaker/ President of Parliament, **we would be honoured to welcome you and/or a delegation from your parliament to Buenos Aires on 4-5 November 2022 at the 12th CAP-ICC/43rd Annual Forum of PGA hosted by the Congress of Argentina.**

The CAP-ICC sustains a global parliamentary constituency for the Rome Statute system, and it receives institutional support from the European Union, Denmark, Liechtenstein, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and Oak Foundation.

Please accept, Honourable Speaker/President, the assurances of our highest esteem and consideration.

Dip. Sergio Massa (Argentina)
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Hon. Kasthuri Patto (Malasia)
President, PGA

Sen. Lucila Crexell (Argentina)
President, PGA Argentina

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