



## Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of Seychelles

Submitted by

**Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)**

**For the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on the Universal  
Periodic Review (Third Cycle)**

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Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is the largest non-governmental, cross-party, international network of individual legislators with approximately 1,200 members in 134 parliaments worldwide. PGA mobilizes parliamentarians as champions committed to promoting the rule of law, democracy, human security, inclusion, and gender equality. By using a peer-to-peer methodology and country-specific strategies, PGA educates, sensitizes, and builds the technical capacity of parliamentarians to take concrete initiatives and legislative actions to achieve results on PGA's campaign objectives. PGA supports individual parliamentarians in their national contexts and parliaments and then leverages that capacity with international networking to support democracy, human rights, and peace. The organization's vision is to contribute to creating a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe, and democratic world. PGA is in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations with headquarters in New York; its office in The Hague, Netherlands, fosters cooperation with The Hague-based International Organizations, including the International Criminal Court.

## Introduction

1. With this submission, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) wishes to promote the ratification/ accession and implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other key instrument on international criminal justice in Seychelles and raise awareness of key activities it has undertaken to this effect in Seychelles. PGA believes that the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute is an essential step to strengthen the rule of law, seek justice for victims, and, most importantly, end impunity for the commission of grave international crimes. To this end, PGA provides the following recommendations and actions to encourage Seychelles to take the appropriate measures to adopt these essential instruments.

## I. Legal Framework

2. Seychelles ratified the Rome Statute on 10 August 2010;
3. Seychelles has not signed or acceded to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity;
4. Seychelles has not signed or acceded to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court;
5. While PGA welcomes the implementation by Seychelles of the crime of genocide and war crimes, there is no provision under the criminal code or other relevant instruments criminalizing crimes against humanity. Additionally, several of the underlying war crimes are missing;
6. In 2011, Seychelles was among the countries that adopted the text of the Commonwealth Model Law to Implement the Rome Statute, which could serve, in its updated form, as the basis for the domestic implementing legislation.

## II. 2011 Universal Period Review

7. During the 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle, Trinidad and Tobago and Australia welcomed Seychelles' ratification of the Rome Statute<sup>i</sup> as a critical step towards ending impunity and bringing justice to victims.

## III. PGA's Activities

8. Based on meetings held by PGA at the European Union-Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Ljubljana in March 2008, the then Seychelles Ambassador in Brussels requested the cooperation of PGA to promote the accession to the Rome Statute in compliance with article 11, para. 6 of the revised Cotonou Agreement. Several demarches suggested by PGA were conducted by the EU presidency, which served as an important complement action to the ratification process.<sup>ii</sup>

## IV. Recommendations

9. Implement the Rome Statute. Such step will not only equip the domestic legislation with tools to address grave human rights violations, but it will also serve to express solidarity with victims of mass atrocity crimes. In addition, it will make a powerful foreign policy statement reaffirming the country's commitment to the respect of human rights and international justice;
10. Ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court; *and*
11. Accede to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity.

## Endnotes

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<sup>i</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Seychelles (A/HRC/18/7) 11 July 2011, <https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-18-7/>, paras. 55 and 78.

<sup>ii</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 2.1.