



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

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 Singapore and raise awareness of key activities it has undertaken to this effect in Singapore. 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.
2. Given the active role Singapore took in the Rome Statute's initial drafting process,<sup>i</sup> and lack of a dismission of a possible accession, PGA provides the following recommendations and actions to encourage Singapore to take the appropriate measures to acceded to the Rome Statute and other essential instruments.

## I. Legal Framework

3. Singapore has neither signed nor acceded to the Rome Statute;
4. Singapore has not ratified the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC;
5. Singapore exchanged notes on the Bilateral Non-Surrender Agreement with the US administration on 17 October 2003;
6. Singapore has not ratified the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity;
7. An ICC clause was being negotiated in the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Singapore;<sup>ii</sup>
8. While articles 130D and 130E of the Penal Code of Singapore criminalize genocide, there is no domestication of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

## II. 2011 and 2016 Universal Period Review

9. During the 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle, Singapore accepted a recommendation (France) on the ratification of the Rome Statute.<sup>iii</sup>
10. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle, Singapore only 'noted' such recommendations (Austria, Benin, Botswana, Cyprus, France, Ghana, Honduras, Latvia, Peru, Poland, Portugal).<sup>iv</sup>

## III. Recommendations

11. Accede to and implement the Rome Statute. It will not only equip the domestic legislation with tools to prevent and 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;
12. Ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court; *and*
13. Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity.

## Endnotes

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<sup>i</sup> The Diplomat, *Asia and the ICC: 20 Years Later*, 13 October 2018, <https://thediplomat.com/2018/10/asia-and-the-icc-20-years-later/>

<sup>ii</sup> The European Union's reply to the information request in paragraph 6, subparagraph h) of the Plan of Action for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute (06 October 2011), [https://asp.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/asp\\_docs/ASP12/ICC-ASP12-POA-2013-EU-ENG.pdf](https://asp.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/asp_docs/ASP12/ICC-ASP12-POA-2013-EU-ENG.pdf), Para. 2.4

<sup>iii</sup> Responses to Recommendations & Voluntary Pledges: Singapore (06 January 2012), [https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/singapore/session\\_11\\_-\\_may\\_2011/recommendationstosingapore2011.pdf](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/singapore/session_11_-_may_2011/recommendationstosingapore2011.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> Responses to Recommendations & Voluntary Pledges: Singapore (01 September 2016), [https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/singapore/session\\_24\\_-\\_january\\_2016/recommendations\\_and\\_pledges\\_singapore\\_2016.pdf](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/singapore/session_24_-_january_2016/recommendations_and_pledges_singapore_2016.pdf)