Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Parliamentarians for Global Action, a global network of over 1,300 Members of Parliament in 142 countries worldwide, I am honored to be with you today and make this short statement.

PGA recognizes that, like any other treaty, for the BWC to be fully effective, universality and national implementation must be achieved.

Parliamentarians, both as advocates and as lawmakers, have extraordinary, unique contributions to make in moving forward respective national ratification and implementation processes of international treaties.


In the less than 9 months that have passed since that time, and pursuant to the Plan of Action adopted at that Annual Forum, PGA Members worldwide have taken a wide range of substantive initiatives to promote both universality and national implementation of the BWC.

More concretely, PGA Members in Angola, Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia, Namibia, Nepal, Samoa, Somalia and Tanzania, in close coordination with the PGA Headquarters Secretariat in New York and The Hague, have been vigorously advocating for ratification or accession of the BWC, with both notable results as well as promising signs of future tangible action on this front.

PGA was also honored to successfully encourage the Republic of Vanuatu to prepare an Instrument of Succession to the BWC which we hope will be deposited shortly with one of the 3 Depositary States under the BWC.

The Acting President of Haiti, a former member of PGA while in the Senate of his country, has also written in person to our organization recently, indicating a keen interest to try and move forward the BWC ratification process in Haiti.
In the coming few months, PGA intends to expand its BWC universality campaign more assertively among PGA Members in Francophone African nations that are not yet States Parties, as well as with members across a number of Pacific Islands States that have yet to join this vital international treaty.

On the Implementation front, and just in the past six months alone, PGA Members across 12 Latin American countries have taken a series of highly substantive steps

Many have been in direct contact with Foreign Ministers, through correspondence or ‘in personam’ meetings, to push the cause for improved national implementation as well as the closely related issue of seeking a review of existing legislation to assess adequacy in light of more ‘modern’ threats that have emerged in recent years, regarding Non State Actors and these weapons.

Many of these prominent Legislators, working in close coordination with the PGA Secretariat in New York and The Hague, have also received extensive written official responses from their respective Foreign Ministries on the current status of implementation and future plans.

PGA intends to continue it works on promoting improved national implementation of the BWC in Latin America and other regions in the coming months.

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PGA greatly values the advice it receives from time to time from the Implementation Support Unit of the Biological Weapons Convention here in Geneva, as we seek to achieve our mutual goals and objectives

PGA is also profoundly grateful to the Governments of Canada and Australia for the support they have extended to our still fledgling BWC and we look forward to continue working with them in the months and years ahead.

PGA very much hopes that Distinguished Representatives from other Governments present here today may also give favorable consideration in due course to supporting PGA’s work in this area, which so closely compliments and strengthens your own.

I hope I may have an opportunity to meet some of you in the coming few days.

We encourage you to visit our website and the webpage of PGA’s BWC Campaign to obtain further information and details of our groundbreaking efforts and successes.

Many conclusions and recommendations will be taken away from this 8th Review Conference of the BWC.

In so doing, PGA encourages all Delegates not to forget the crucial role that Parliamentarians have to play.

Thank You.