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“CITIZENS NEED A VOICE IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS”

POLITICAL LEADERS CALL FOR U.N. PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

OTTAWA – Canadian MPs joined today with parliamentarians and other political leaders around the world to call for the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations (UNPA).

550 political leaders, among them 378 MPs from 70 countries, have signed the International Appeal for a UNPA. The appeal states that, in an age of globalization, citizens need to be vested with a stronger voice in global affairs. The call is the core of an international campaign which is being launched through a series of events in more than ten countries.

Today’s press conference (Room 130S, House of Commons) is co-hosted by Hon. Warren Allmand, President, WFM – Canada, and Dr. Bernard Patry M.P., and includes parliamentarians from the major Canadian political parties.

The International Appeal for a UNPA recommends “a gradual implementation of democratic participation and representation on the global level”. To achieve this, the establishment of a consultative UNPA is “an indispensable step.”

“A Parliamentary Assembly would make the U.N. more transparent, more efficient and more democratic”, says former U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, one of the signatories of the appeal and patron of the next milestone in the campaign, a conference planned for October 2007 in Geneva.

Initially the UNPA could be composed of a small, representative number of parliamentarians from each national parliament. However, the appeal suggests that over time the assembly should be vested with “genuine rights of information, participation and control” and could eventually be composed of directly elected members. In the long-run, the UNPA could evolve into a world parliament.

The campaign is organized by an international coalition of civil society organizations. The campaign’s Secretariat is led by the Committee for a Democratic U.N. Presentations are taking place during the period April 23 to May 15 in Berlin, Berne, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Dar Es Salaam, Dhaka, London, Madrid, Mumbai, Ottawa, Rome and Vancouver.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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