

## **Shazia Z. Rafi**

**President & Convenor**

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Ms. Rafi is the President and Convenor of AirQualityAsia. Ms. Rafi is a consultant specializing in parliamentary diplomacy related to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

From 1996 to 2013 Ms. Rafi was the Secretary-General of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA). PGA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of elected legislators from over 130 countries that leverage parliamentary processes to promote peace, international law, gender equality and reproductive health. PGA was founded in Washington D.C. in 1978 with a focus on nuclear non-proliferation and negotiation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Under Ms. Rafi's leadership, PGA successfully promoted the Rome Statue establishing the International Criminal Court; played a critical role in the passage of the Arms Trade Treaty to regulate conventional weapons trade; built international consensus for progressive legislation on gender equality and reproductive health at the Cairo Conference and the Beijing Conference; clean air/clean water legislation focuses on urban environmental health and mediated in conflict zones from Azerbaijan to Cote d'Ivoire and Haiti.

Shazia Z. Rafi was PGA's first female Secretary-General, first Secretary-General from the developing world, from an Islamic country, and its longest-serving chief executive. Under her tenure, PGA was transformed from an organization facing bankruptcy to a stable, growing and influential player in the worlds of diplomacy, international law and development; with established relations with the United Nations system, the World Bank, the World Economic Forum and leading international NGOs.

Ms. Rafi joined Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) in 1993 as Director, Democracy and Development Programs. She was appointed Deputy Secretary-General in June 1995 and Secretary-General in June 1996. At PGA, Ms. Rafi developed projects on the Role of Parliamentarians in Conflict Management and Political mediation; the Role of Parliamentary Committees in Rule of Law and Good Governance; the Role of Parliamentary Leadership in gender equality and women's empowerment; and the Role of Foreign Aid Committees of Donor parliaments in Development Assistance. Ms. Rafi is a contributing editor for [www.womensmediacenter.com](http://www.womensmediacenter.com), Op-ed contributor, *El Pais*, [www.dawn.com](http://www.dawn.com), [www.khaleejtimes.com](http://www.khaleejtimes.com), *Ahram Weekly*, [www.passblue.com](http://www.passblue.com). Commentator on ABC, Al-Jazeera America, Associated Press, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, BBC Urdu, CBS, Channel 11, the Independent, International Business Times, NTN24, Sky News, TRTWorld, the Fletcher Forum.

Ms. Rafi has a Master's degree in International Political Economy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (1983) and she graduated Magna cum Laude from Bryn Mawr College (1979) in Political Science, with junior year in International Relations from the London School of Economics and speaks five languages.

Ms. Rafi was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General to serve on the advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), in an individual capacity, for the period of 2012-2013. She also serves as founding Board member of WomanSG, inaugural board member for the Asian Women's University, Malaysia; Senior Advisor, Transparency International Defense and Security Program, and advisor/annual speaker to the Women in Public Service Summer Institute of the Wilson Center, Washington D.C. Ms. Rafi currently serves as the UN Representative for the All Pakistan Women's Association, the oldest and largest women's organization in the country.