

Thursday, 18 February 2016

Dear Ms Kingo,

Communication on Engagement in the UN Global Compact

I am writing on behalf of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), to provide you with our Communication on Engagement report, as a non-business member of the UN Global Compact.

GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of legislators, working together to combat corruption, strengthen democracies, and uphold the rule of law. We have 58 national chapters, and individual members in nearly every parliament of the world.

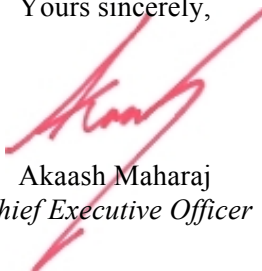
We remain a strong supporter of the Global Compact initiative and principles, and we are delighted to have played a special role in bringing together legislators, businesses, and citizens to advance Principle 10, "Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery."

GOPAC and our members have participated in quarterly national meetings of Global Compact Local Networks. We have also worked to craft fair and effective legislation and regulation in the resource extraction sector, to ensure that private corporations operate in an environment where their actions, "support the economic development of the societies in which [they] operate, leading to good governance and stability."

We have attached a copy of our *Making a Difference* inventory of national projects, which gives greater details of our activities, country by country.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact us at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Akaash Maharaj
Chief Executive Officer

Ms Lise Kingo
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/Encl



GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DE PARLAMENTARIOS CONTRA LA CORRUPCIÓN
المنظمة العالمية للبرلمانيين ضد الفساد

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Victories in the fight against corruption



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A Message from the Executive Director	3
About the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption....	5
Anti-Money Laundering	7
Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct	11
Parliamentary Oversight	14
Participation of Society	19
United Nations Convention Against Corruption	23
Women in Parliament.....	27

Message from the Executive Director

Corruption robs citizens of our own resources, our fundamental rights, and our very identities as members of a free and equal society. It makes the weak prey to the strong, and delivers control of society into the hands of the unjust. It debilitates the nation, undermines the rule of law, and rots public confidence in democracy. It is a crime against hope itself.

The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) has been leading the fight against corruption around the world, for more than a decade. We believe that the solution to corruption is simple to describe, though difficult to achieve: a vigilant, relentless, and fearless community of parliamentarians, standing between our leaders and the levers of power.

For twelve years, our network of parliamentarians has grown, and now encompasses nearly a thousand legislators, fifty national chapters, and regional chapters in every hemisphere.

We have also built powerful partnerships with like-minded international institutions, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative (StAR), the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the World Bank Institute (WBI), and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA). We have co-sponsored major international initiatives with partners such as the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). We have built bridges to key civil society organizations such as Transparency International, the Revenue Watch Institute, Publish What You Pay, and Tearfund.

But the measure of GOPAC is not just the strength of our organization, but the impact that strength has had on the world.

This report outlines some of our major achievements, in every region of the world, across the full range of anti-corruption sectors. We describe how our alliance of parliamentarians has succeeded in bringing about significant change to governance structures, laws, and policies, and in doing so, are winning the fight against corruption.

The path is hard. The journey is long. The risks are grave. But story is a happy one: we are helping to make the world a more just, more humane, and more prosperous place. We are grateful to all those who have fought with us, and made this possible.



Akaash Maharaj



VISION

Achieve accountability and transparency through effective anti-corruption mechanisms and inclusive participation and cooperation between parliamentarians, government and civil society

MISSION

Assist and support parliamentarians in their advocacy and legislation to make governments accountable and transparent

CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY is at the heart of the anti-corruption agenda. GOPAC is committed to conducting itself with the same honesty, openness, and principle it seeks to instill in governments.

ACCOUNTABILITY and transparency are the essence of good government. GOPAC is committed to leading by example, by ensuring we are accountable to our members, our partners, and our funders. We demand the same of all governments, by ensuring that accountability is a fundamental objective of all our initiatives.

COLLABORATION. GOPAC recognizes that the fight against corruption is a fight by all of us, for all of us, and can only succeed when we work together. We work in collaboration with legislators, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, and seek to build a strong coalition against corruption across sectors and across society.

DIVERSITY. GOPAC is an inclusive and diverse organization. We are committed to ensuring that our network is open and non-partisan, and welcomes members who believe in the same core values GOPAC holds, from all over the world regardless of age, race, religion, gender, or political affiliation.

About the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption

GOPAC was founded in 2002 as a result of a Global Conference in Ottawa, Canada that brought together over 170 parliamentarians and 400 observers dedicated to fighting corruption and improving good governance. It was at this meeting that the Board of Directors approved the GOPAC Constitution. GOPAC was legally incorporated in the autumn of 2003.

GOPAC is the only international network of parliamentarians focused solely on combating corruption. Its members represent more than 50 countries in all regions of the world. They are current or former legislators, or elected legislators who have been denied their right to take office. Their collaboration is non-partisan.

GOPAC's Global Task Forces (GTFs) conduct original research and advance anti-corruption knowledge and practical ability, in their spheres of responsibility. Each GTF is composed of parliamentarians with expertise and experience, from diverse regions. The GTFs produce handbooks and conduct workshops to build capacity among parliamentarians worldwide. Through its GTFs, GOPAC supports the introduction of legislative and regulatory changes in national parliaments to control corruption, promote good governance, and hold the Executive more accountable to the people.



His Highness the Amir of Kuwait receives GOPAC representative, Dr Naser Al Sane, the Hon Roy Cullen, and John Williams. Bayan Palace, Kuwait. 6 July 2011.

GOPAC operates through a network of regional and national chapters:

- **African Parliamentary Network Against Corruption (APNAC)** with national chapters in Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and developing chapters in Nigeria and South Sudan.
- **Arab Region Parliamentarians Against Corruption (ARPAC)** with national chapters in Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Yemen.
- **GOPAC Latin America and the Caribbean** with national chapters in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru, and developing chapters in Colombia and Costa Rica.
- **GOPAC Oceania** with national chapters in Australia, Kiribati, New Zealand and Cook Islands, and a developing chapter in Tonga.
- **South East Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC)** with national chapters in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste, with developing chapters in Myanmar and Thailand.

In addition, we also have the national chapters in areas where we have yet to establish regional chapters: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Canada, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and Italy. GOPAC is also currently in the process of developing regional chapters in South Asia and the non-Spanish speaking Caribbean.



Members of GOPAC gather at close of the fifth Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption. Manila, Philippines. 2 February 2014.



ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

Money laundering is now the third largest industry in the world. Perpetrators of corruption use money laundering schemes to hide the true source of their ill-gotten funds and to create a false provenance for those funds. Money laundering can involve wide criminal networks, friends and families, and international legitimate financial institutions.

Weak or non-existent systems of accountability and transparency enable money laundering and permit corruption to flourish. Conversely, strong anti-money laundering systems can stop corruption before it begins, by making it impossible for the corrupt to enjoy the spoils of corruption. Parliamentarians are the primary authors of anti-money laundering legislation and regulations creation. They can also press for vigorous oversight of government activity and empowerment of independent auditors.

GOPAC's Anti-Money Laundering Global Task Force (GTF-AML) works with anti-money laundering experts, and with organizations such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol, and the Egmont Group. The GTF-AML has developed a complementary approach to fight both corruption and money laundering, and promotes the use of practical tools and techniques to limit money laundering.



The Hon Roy Cullen speaks at Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund Conference. Baku, Azerbaijan. 24 May 2014.

To help parliamentarians fight money laundering, the GTF-AML developed the GOPAC Anti-Money Laundering Action Guide for Parliamentarians. This book provides parliamentarians with information and tools to become actively engaged in their legislatures in the fight against money laundering.

Through the guide, parliamentarians can gain the knowledge necessary to introduce anti-money laundering legislation and to build coalitions with other parliamentarians to support the policing and prosecution of money laundering in their countries.



GOPAC Board Member Mary King speaks at anti-money laundering conference. Panama City, Panama. 26 February 2013.



SEAPAC Philippines Anti-Money Laundering Workshop. Manila, Philippines. 16 March 2012.

SEAPAC Philippines Strengthen Anti-Money Laundering Legislation

In February 2012, the Philippines was on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) “dark grey” list of countries considered to be making insufficient progress in tackling money-laundering, and were under serious threat of being demoted to the FATF blacklist of non-compliant states. Such action would have resulted in a regime of stricter inspection of all financial transactions entering and leaving the Philippines, resulting in higher transaction fees and significant delays for expatriate Filipino workers remitting funds from overseas.

To address these concerns, SEAPAC Philippines, the GOPAC national chapter in the Philippines, organized a parliamentary workshop on anti-money laundering and pushed for amendments to the country’s anti-money laundering legislation. In June 2012, the Senate of the Philippines passed three bills that together expanded the definition of money laundering, increased the range of financial crimes, provided greater powers to monitor bank accounts, and criminalized financial support for terrorists. These legislative changes not only succeeded in preventing the Philippines from landing on the FATF blacklist, but also moved the country forward to the list of countries with improving global compliance. The legislative amendments not only strengthened the Philippines anti-money laundering legislation, but also helped avoid serious damage to the economy from sanctions that would have had a significant impact on the country’s economy.

In February 2013, further amendments were made requiring foreign exchange corporations, money changers, and insurance companies to report transactions of P500,000 and above to the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC). In addition to this, predicate crimes - or those criminal acts where the law may also be applied if money is involved – were expanded to cover 20 other acts, including bribery, extortion, misuse of public funds, fraud, and financing of terrorism.

Senator Teofisto Guingona III, Chair of GOPAC’s GTF-AML, continues to push for additional amendments to anti-money laundering legislation, in an attempt to bring the Philippines further in line with the international standards established by the FATF.

APNAC-Kenya Champions Country's First Anti-Money Laundering Legislation

Before 2009, there was no formal legislation dealing with money laundering in Kenya. The 1994 Narcotics Act attempted to deal with the proceeds of trafficking in illicit drugs, while the Central Bank of Kenya provided guidelines to registered banking institutions on dealing with the proceeds of crime. Successive bills aimed at introducing legislation to tackle money laundering were rejected by the Kenyan Parliament in 2007 and 2008. In 2009, however, APNAC-Kenya contributed to drafting a new bill. The bill, which was sponsored and championed by APNAC member the Hon Musikari Kombo, received Presidential Assent in December 2009 as the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act.

This legislation expanded the definition of money laundering and introduced reporting requirements for all financial institutions. It imposed heavy financial and criminal penalties for money laundering and established a number of implementing bodies such as the Financial Reporting Centre and the Asset Recovery Agency, as well as providing extensive investigative powers to police.

Additional amendments to the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act were tabled in the National Assembly of Kenya in June 2013, aimed at further strengthening penalties for money-laundering, particularly in relation to terrorist financing.



APNAC-Kenya Revitalisation Process & Consultative Meeting held in Mombasa, Kenya from June 20-22, 2013.



Members of GOPAC Kyrgyzstan following anti-corruption workshop. Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. 19 August 2013.

GOPAC Kyrgyzstan Strengthens Anti-Money Laundering Legislation

GOPAC Kyrgyzstan successfully pushed for a number of amendments to the country's Law on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing. Amendments included strengthening Kyrgyzstan's Financial Intelligence Service (FIS) and increasing collaboration between the FIS and key law enforcement agencies. The amendments to legislation, passed in 2009, not only helped Kyrgyzstan fulfil the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, but also resulted in Kyrgyzstan being admitted to the EGMONT Group, a forum which promotes collaboration between national financial intelligence units in order to strengthen the global fight against money laundering.



PARLIAMENTARY

ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Parliament, which sets the legal framework and oversees the executive branch of government, plays the central role in preventing corruption. However, to be effective in this role, parliamentarians must themselves live out the standards and ethics they would impose upon others.

Surveys of public trust in professions often rank parliamentarians as being amongst the least trusted members of society. Such lack of trust seriously undermines public faith in public institutions, and diminishes the ability of parliamentarians to effectively carry out their anti-corruption duties.

Parliamentarians should actively and visibly carry out their democratic roles (representation, legislation, and oversight) in a manner that meets or exceeds public expectations of ethical behaviour. Parliamentarians should also ensure that parliamentary standards for behaviour reflect international norms as well as domestic customs and ethical traditions.

GOPAC's Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct Global Task Force (GTF-PEC) works in partnership with key international organizations, such as the National Democratic Institute and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, to provide tools and training materials to help parliamentarians develop, adhere to, and enforce codes of conduct to build public trust in parliamentarians.



GOPAC Latin America and the Caribbean hosts parliamentary ethics workshop. San Salvador, El Salvador. 23 April 2013.

GOPAC El Salvador Puts Ethics at Top of Political Agenda

In April 2013, GOPAC El Salvador organized a forum on parliamentary ethics to raise awareness amongst parliamentarians of issues relating to ethics and conduct in parliament and the civil service. The objectives of the chapter were to promote transparency, strengthen and expand the current code of ethics and restore public faith in parliamentarians. During the forum, Representative Sigfrido Reyes, the President of the National Assembly and GOPAC El Salvador Chair, underlined that abiding by a strong code of conduct was part of parliamentarians' commitment to transparency and accountability.

APNAC-Zambia Adopts Formal Code of Conduct

After years of lobbying for the adoption of a code of conduct in the Parliament of Zambia, the members of APNAC-Zambia decided to lead by example by developing their own code of conduct. Working in partnership with the Institute of Directors – an international consultancy on issues of governance – APNAC-Zambia developed a code of conduct and a member's handbook on anti-corruption in 2011. They held a televised public ceremony in 2012 at which 68 members of APNAC-Zambia, from across the political spectrum, simultaneously swore allegiance to the code of conduct and declared their commitment to work to eradicate corruption at all levels of society in Zambia.

The code of conduct clearly established APNAC-Zambia's ethical principles. It included commitments to refuse inducements, declare conflicts of interests, disclose the receipt of gifts, declare personal assets, and educate the public about the causes and impact of corruption.



Members of APNAC-Zambia at orientation workshop. Lusaka, Zambia. 6-8 July, 2012.

APNAC-Zimbabwe Continues to Push for Parliamentary Code of Conduct

Members of APNAC-Zimbabwe first pushed for a code of conduct for the Parliament of Zimbabwe during a parliamentary debate in 2011. Since then, APNAC-Zimbabwe Chair, the Hon Willias Madzimore, has refused to let this issue fall off the political agenda and has been active in raising public awareness in support of a code. The Seventh Parliament Standing Rules and Orders Committee had agreed on the content of a code, which included the requirement that all members of Parliament declare their assets to limit the scope for corruption. Although the code was not formally implemented before the 2013 dissolution of Parliament for elections, APNAC members on both sides of the House called for all members of the newly elected Parliament to file a declaration of assets as required by the code.

APNAC-Zimbabwe is planning to hold a series of induction and anti-corruption workshops for new members of Parliament and have also declared their intent to push for a Statutory Instrument to compel civil servants to file declarations of assets.



APNAC-Zimbabwe Chair the Hon Willias Madzimore.

GOPAC New Zealand Member Raises Awareness of Parliamentary Ethics



In February 2012, a member of GOPAC New Zealand, Ross Robertson, introduced a private member's bill to establish a code of ethics in the New Zealand Parliament. While New Zealand is ranked as one of the least corrupt countries in the world in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, public esteem of parliamentarians remains low, and GOPAC New Zealand hoped that a formal code of conduct would help to restore public confidence. Although the bill failed to gain a majority, its introduction was successful in raising awareness of the issue and focussing the spotlight on the importance of parliamentarians leading by example in the fight against corruption.



PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

Parliamentary oversight is one of the three core democratic roles of parliamentarians. GOPAC, through the Parliamentary Oversight Global Task Force (GTF-PO) focuses on oversight as it relates to financial and operational integrity, rather than broader economic or social policy. It is the duty of parliamentarians to require the Executive to follow the rules related to financial operations, and for the government to report openly to Parliament on its use of Executive powers and public resources.

Oversight of financial and operational integrity includes:

- the review of all sources of revenue and expenditures, including tax expenditures, donor aid, and all revenue received through exploitation of natural resources;
- legislation and other parliamentary rules related to government budgeting, debt management, expenditure operations, and financial reporting; and
- legislation and other rules which guide and enable parliament to effectively oversee the implementation of the government's obligations related to the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

APNAC-Burkina Faso Promotes Transparency in Extractive Industries

In June 2011, members of APNAC-Burkina Faso and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Burkina Faso (EITI-BF), united to fight corruption in the national mining sector. APNAC-Burkina Faso and EITI-BF members pressured leaders in the mining sector to ensure transparency and good governance in the exploitation of Burkina Faso's natural resources. Some of the measures highlighted as means of fighting corruption included publicizing annual revenues, salaries of executives, and the amount of taxes paid to the government annually.

Because of these efforts, Burkina Faso was accepted as EITI compliant in early 2013. This initiative sends a message to extractive companies that parliamentarians in Burkina Faso are committed to enforcing policies of transparency and anti-corruption in the extractive industries. This measure will deter extractive companies from evading the payment of taxes to their host countries and will ensure that revenue from natural resources is used for the benefit of the community.



Members of APNAC-Burkina Faso at anti-corruption workshop. 2012.

APNAC-Mali Pushes for Audit of State Institutions



Following a coup in 2012, APNAC-Mali made a recommendation to the transitional government that it carry out an audit of all state institutions, to ensure that public funds were properly accounted for. When the government failed to heed that request, APNAC-Mali took their concerns public through a media effort that received coverage from 11 newspapers, 4 radio stations, and national and private television channels. Two days later, the Government of Mali adopted a Cabinet directive that ordered full management audits on all public institutions.

Through their efforts, APNAC-Mali demonstrated how parliamentarians can use their leadership role in partnership with the media to fulfil their responsibility of holding the Executive accountable for the expenditure of public revenue.

Chair of APNAC-Mali Honourable Amadou Bouaré leads news conference. 25 June 2012.



Delegation of GOPAC Timor-Leste members at SEAPAC General Assembly. Medan, Indonesia. 23 October 2013.

GOPAC Timor-Leste Highlights Suspected Misuse of Public Funds

In May 2012, GOPAC Timor-Leste raised concerns about the award of a \$45m contract for the construction of roads and bridges for a project that was neither included in the state budget, nor approved by the government. GOPAC Timor-Leste called on the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Prosecutor-General, and the High Court of Account to investigate these allegations which, if proven, would be in violation of state's financial management law and the laws governing the procurement process.

GOPAC Timor-Leste similarly asked the Anti -Corruption Commission, the Prosecutor-General, and the National Election Commission to investigate claims that the ruling political party received \$2.5 million USD in illegal political donations—the largest of which may have come from companies that were awarded major construction contracts in recent years.

APNAC-Uganda Facilitates New Oil Exploration and Production Bill

In 2012, APNAC-Uganda joined forces with the Parliamentary Forum on Oil and Gas (PFOG) to push for greater transparency in the oil industry. Through a series of capacity building workshops facilitated by Uganda's Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment, APNAC-Uganda and PFOG were able to raise awareness of key corruption issues in the industry and seek a national consensus on how to ensure that oil exploration in Uganda is sustainable and benefits all Ugandans. Eighty per cent of the proposals from these workshops were incorporated into a revised bill, which passed into law in July 2013 as the Petroleum (Refining, Conversion, Transmission and Midstream Storage) Act 2013.



The objectives of the act are to regulate, manage, coordinate, and monitor midstream operations; to enable the construction, placement and ownership of facilities; to provide for third party access to facilities; and to regulate tariffs for facilities. The act will also provide for an open, transparent, and competitive process for licensing by the minister; provide for additional and particular health, safety and environment regulations not sufficiently regulated in other laws; provide for cessation of midstream operations under this act and decommissioning of facilities; and regulate any other matters related to midstream operations.

ARPAC Egypt Awareness Campaigns Lead to Return of State Land

Efforts by ARPAC Egypt have led to the recovery of the ownership of over 1,175 acres of stolen land. The chapter carried out a number of workshops and other activities to raise awareness of corruption in the country, with particular emphasis on the recovery of stolen assets. ARPAC Egypt has highlighted the case of illegal sales of state land by former President Mubarak to ministers, corporations and other individuals linked to the regime.

Following a high level investigation into the claims, in May 2011, 35 former Egyptian members of Parliament admitted to receiving land illegally and agreed to return the titles to avoid prosecution. As a result, over 1,175 acres of recovered land assets were put up for sale by public auction, raising badly needed revenue for the state. Meanwhile, former Housing Minister Ahmed al-Maghrabi was sentenced to five years in prison for his part in illegally acquiring 18 acres of state land.

GOPAC Member Pushes for Asset Declarations in Pakistan

GOPAC member in Pakistan Dr Donya Aziz and a group of fellow members of Parliament introduced a private member's bill to amend existing legislation, to improve parliamentary oversight of the bureaucracy by requiring adherence to asset disclosure rules. Specifically, they recommended that a new section be included in the Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill 2011, which set out procedures for the appointments of senior public servants, as well as requirements for appointees to make public declarations of their assets.

Although the bill did not pass, debates in Parliament resulted in the Prime Minister issuing a cabinet directive that partially fulfilled the requirements of the bill. In particular, an amendment to the Federal Board of Revenue's rules was made under Section 13A, which states that "The assets of all those who are paid from the Government exchequer shall be made public."



Dr Donya Aziz, GOPAC Member from Pakistan.

GOPAC Canada Helps Public Accounts Committee in Jamaica Improve Oversight

Members of GOPAC Canada with expertise in Public Accounts have been helping Jamaican parliamentarians to strengthen their parliamentary oversight mechanisms.

In 2013, GOPAC Canada members met with the Jamaica's Auditor General, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and members of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Members of the Jamaican PAC expressed interest in exploring ways of strengthening capacity in the areas of scrutiny, transparency, and accountability.

Following discussions, participants signed a letter of intent, which documented the Jamaican PAC's commitment to improving parliamentary oversight and their support for the development of a GOPAC chapter in Jamaica. GOPAC Canada agreed to continue to support this through the exchange of best practices.



Chair of GOPAC Canada, Daryl Kramp meets with Audley Shaw, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee. Jamaica. Ottawa, Canada. 14 May 2013.



PARTICIPATION OF SOCIETY

Participation of society is based on the principle that those who are affected by a decision should be involved in the decision making process. Corruption diminishes in direct proportion to public demand for integrity, which can be nurtured and empowered through public collaboration with parliamentarians. There are a number of well-accepted practices that support the participation of society in the fight against corruption and effective oversight of government, including access to information legislation and administrative and parliamentary committee practices—open meetings, televised hearings, and inviting witnesses.

The Participation of Society Global Task Force (GTF-PoS) highlights the importance of parliamentarians engaging with their constituents and working collaboratively with civil society to raise awareness of corruption issues and to support legislative and administrative changes aimed at combatting corruption. It focuses on the representational role of parliamentarians in ensuring that the voice of the people is heard by government and reflected in appropriate anti-corruption legislation, and it demonstrates the advantages of incorporating the technical expertise of civil society organizations in formulating policy and legislation.



GOPAC members at Participation of Society session during fifth Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption. Manila, Philippines. 1 February 2013.

The GTF-PoS engages and motivates GOPAC regional and national chapters and parliamentarians through the sharing of experiences and best practices, and by promoting practical tools and techniques for public engagement on anticorruption issues. It helps different parliamentary systems develop suitable legislation to promote transparency, access to information, and protection of civil rights for those who take a stand against corruption.



GOPAC panel at the 15th International Anti-Corruption Conference. Brasilia, Brazil. 10 November 2012.

GOPAC Ukraine Collaborates with Civil Society to Force Anti-Corruption Investigation

Members of GOPAC Ukraine have forces with the Anti-Corruption Action Centre (AntAC), a local civil society organization, to bring about a criminal investigation of a pharmaceutical company suspected of corrupt procurement practices and money laundering.

According to the AntAC, a Ukrainian pharmaceutical company was using insider knowledge to win government procurement contracts and was laundering money for large overseas companies. To facilitate ACCA's investigation, GOPAC Ukraine member Leseya Orobets submitted a lawmaker's enquiry for the company to provide details of its business transactions. When the company failed to respond to this request, GOPAC Ukraine Chair Viktor Chumak requested criminal proceedings against the company's CEO for obstructing the work of a member of Parliament. In September 2013, Ukrainian police started criminal proceedings against the CEO.



Chair of GOPAC Ukraine, Victor Chumak at launch of national chapter. Kiev, Ukraine. 3 June 2013.



YEMENPAC workshop. 27 June 2013.

YEMENPAC Conducts National Constitutional Survey

YEMENPAC implemented an innovative initiative to engage the greater Yemeni population in consultations on a new Constitution. The initiative was deemed by civil society in Yemen to be the largest and most broadly based engagement of civil society in Yemen's history. Through the initiative, ARPAC Yemen engaged Yemeni sectors that have traditionally lacked a strong voice in government, including women, youth, labourers, religious minorities, ethnic minorities, opposition political parties, academics, and doctors.

YEMENPAC used questionnaires to solicit the views of 24,000 Yemeni citizens on what they would like to see reflected in the new Yemeni Constitution. According to the results, 79 per cent of citizens wanted to outlaw the formation of political parties on sectarian grounds, while 76 per cent also insisted that family members of the President and Prime Minister should be barred from occupying positions of influence.

ARPAC Lebanon Spearheads Political Lobbying Group

ARPAC Lebanon has been at the forefront of establishing a powerful lobby aimed at promoting transparency and public participation in anti-corruption work.

Concerned by the absence of key transparency and anti-corruption legislation in the country, ARPAC Lebanon joined forces with two civil society organizations – the Lebanon Transparency Initiative and the Association pour la défense des droits et des libertés to form the National Network for the Right of Access to Information. This network, which has grown to include a wide range of representatives from government, civil society organizations, industry, unions, and the media, seeks to enhance transparency and accountability. It also aims to strengthen the rule of law and civic participation in Lebanon through access to information and protection for individuals who report corruption (“whistleblower protection”).

The network is working with the American Bar Association to draft legislation to provide Access to Information and to protect the rights of whistleblowers, the first of which is currently before the Parliament of Lebanon.



The Hon Ali Ashal, a member of YEMENPAC.

GOPAC Member Introduces Yemen's First Access to Information Legislation

The Hon Ali Ashal, a member of YEMENPAC and the GTF-PoS, was responsible for introducing a private member's bill that led to the country's first Access to Information Legislation. The legislation, the Yemen Law on the Right of Access to Information 2012, establishes access to information as a basic right and creates a legal right for individuals to make applications for information directly to the body from whom the information is required. The law requires that the information be given directly to the party requesting the information and/or openly published by public gazette. It also requires the appointment of an Information Commissioner to make regular reports to Parliament on the status of information requests.

Although the final legislation removed some of the key principles contained in the Hon Ashal's original draft, it represents a huge step forward in a country that previously had a state-controlled media and no access to information, even for members of Parliament.



UNITED NATIONS

CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which came into force in 2005, is the most widely-adopted anti-corruption convention in the world. As of January 2013, the convention has been ratified by 165 countries. The Convention obliges State Parties to implement a broad and detailed range of anti-corruption measures effecting their laws, institutions, practices, and cooperation with other states.

GOPAC's involvement in the UNCAC began with its participation at the Merida, Mexico signing ceremony in December 2003. Soon after, GOPAC declared its support for the UNCAC, but noted that strong parliamentary oversight would be essential to the UNCAC's effectiveness. At the GOPAC Global Conference in 2006, GOPAC resolved to form the United Nations Convention Against Corruption Global Task Force (GTF-UNCAC) to promote the implementation of the UNCAC and to identify complementary improvements in the governance roles of parliamentarians.



Post-G8 Briefing with Professor Paul Collier hosted by GOPAC UK. London, UK.
24 June 2013.

UK Anti-Corruption Group Prepares Key Anti-Corruption Information Package

In May 2013, the British Parliament's All Party Parliamentary Group on Anti-Corruption, GOPAC's national chapter in the United Kingdom (UK), published a substantial information package summarizing the UK's anti-corruption and anti-money laundering laws that are in line with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Officials in International Business Transactions.

The package, which was produced in partnership with the civil society organization Tearfund, reflects the UK government's administrative arrangements and mechanisms that exist to prevent the proliferation of corrupt practices. The document also highlights the issues that need to be addressed in the British legal system to better combat domestic corruption. The package is an important primer for current parliamentarians working to combat corruption, and for observers who are attempting to pressure the UK government to curb corruption, money laundering, and the proliferation of trade in illicit goods.

ARPAC Morocco Fills Gaps in Anti-Corruption Credentials

Since 2012, ARPAC Morocco has been working to ensure the country's domestic legislation meets the requirements of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Using an assessment tool for parliamentarians developed jointly by GOPAC and the United Nations Development Programme, ARPAC Morocco members carried out a review of existing legislation.



ARPAC Morocco workshop.



The results were published in The State of the Nations published by GOPAC in December 2012. That report highlighted areas where Morocco should improve its anti-corruption work and included a plan of action for the chapter.

As a result, ARPAC Morocco has now introduced two new draft laws to Parliament, aimed at strengthening legislation on anti-money laundering and on providing access to information. These bills are currently being debated by the Moroccan Parliament and, if adopted, will greatly enhance the country's compliance with UNCAC.

APNAC-Uganda Seeks to Strengthen Anti-Corruption Legislation

APNAC-Uganda member the Hon John Ssimbwa has drafted an amendment to the country's anti-corruption legislation that seeks to impose tougher sanctions on those convicted of corruption.

The bill was formally tabled in Parliament in August 2013 and is currently under scrutiny by the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. The Speaker of Parliament, the Hon Rebecca Kadaga, has publicly endorsed the bill and urged the Committee to give it expeditious consideration in light of the grave problems the country faces with corruption.

If adopted, the legislation would increase the criminal penalties for corruption and introduce a provision for confiscation of ill-gotten assets.



Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament with APNAC-Uganda Executive and APNAC Secretariat. 1 March 2013.

GOPAC Ukraine Spearheads Anti-Corruption Legislation

In May 2013, the Chair of GOPAC Ukraine, Victor Chumak, co-authored and championed a rigorous anti-corruption bill that was passed in July with an overwhelming cross-party majority of members of Parliament.

The new legislation took effect in December 2013 and includes a wide range of new provisions to combat corruption, including the introduction of criminal corporate liability for companies whose employees pay or offer bribes. Parliamentarians and public officials will now have to make public asset declarations, which will be scrutinized and verified by an Independent Anti-Corruption Commission. Those engaged in acts of corruption will find themselves liable to asset seizure. The legislation also calls for the establishment of a Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Commission to ensure that any bills presented to parliament are consistent with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and do not contain conflicts of interest.

The law also promotes greater participation of society by providing access to information and the ability for civil society to monitor political lobbying on draft legislation, while also containing a provision to protect whistleblowers from loss of employment.



Chair of GOPAC Ukraine, Victor Chumak.

ARPAC Palestine Introduces Amendments to Illicit Gain Law

In 2010, ARPAC Palestine member Dr Azmi Al Shuaibi co-authored and sponsored an amendment to the Illicit Gains Law in the Palestinian Legislative Council. The amendment expanded the investigative powers of the Illicit Gain Commission and provided a mandate for the Commission to carry out awareness campaigns aimed at educating Palestinians about the dangers and impact of corruption. Other changes involved improving the coordination of activities to combat corruption, including enhancing cooperation with other regional and international anti-corruption bodies.

The new legislation received Presidential assent in March 2010, and led to the appointment of Palestine's first Illicit Gains Commissioner and the establishment of a special anti-corruption court. In June 2012, the court secured its first major conviction, sentencing a former aide of Yasser Arafat and two other businessmen to 15 years imprisonment and ordered the return of \$33.5m in embezzled funds.





WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

While corruption affects everyone, it has a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable members of society, which are often women. Although women make up over 50 per cent of the world's population, they represent just 20.7 per cent of parliamentarians globally and as little as 12.7 per cent in some regions. Women's participation in politics and the perspectives they bring to key policy issues are vital to the fight against corruption.

GOPAC's Women in Parliament Network (WPN) seeks to build a system of peer support for women parliamentarians and to help them to build capacity and become actively engaged in the fight against corruption. The WPN examines incentives and barriers to women's participation in parliament and seeks to learn from the experiences of initiatives aimed at increasing the proportion of women parliamentarians. The WPN works in partnership with other international organizations similar in scope, such as Transparency International and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

APNAC-Rwanda Raises Profile of “Sexual Corruption”

In June 2013, APNAC-Rwanda helped launch a campaign to tackle gender-based sexual corruption in the work place. In launching the campaign, APNAC-Rwanda Chair and GOPAC Board Member, Senator Marie Claire Mukasine, explained that too often, Rwandans faced demands for sexual favours as a condition of employment or promotion. A study conducted by Transparency International in 2011 revealed that 85 per cent of victims of sexual corruption were female.

APNAC-Rwanda is working in partnership with Transparency International and Rwanda's National Women's Council to raise awareness of the issue, through a series of workshops and informal panel discussions. They are hoping that this approach will destigmatize the issue and encourage victims to report incidents, so that the police can collect evidence and prosecute those who abuse positions of power.

APNAC-Rwanda and Transparency International are hoping that joint collaboration between the police, parliament, legal bodies, religious leaders, civil society, and the private sector, will enable them reduce sexual corruption.



Chair of the APNAC-Rwanda,
Senator Marie Claire
Mukasine.



GOPAC members Dr Donya Aziz, Senator Pia Cayetano, the Hon Nurhayati Ali Assega and Yasmin Ratansi on Role of Women Parliamentarians panel at the fifth Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption. Manila, Philippines. 1 February 2013.





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