

Jakarta, May 16, 2018

The Global Compact Office  
United Nations Global Compact  
Two United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

### **GOPAC Communication on Engagement in the UN Global Compact**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), to provide you with our Communication on Engagement (COE) 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 62 national chapters, and more than 1.000 individual Members of Parliament from around 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 with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to strengthen the role of parliamentarians in monitoring the implementation of SDGs. This project also focused in ensuring strategic coordination with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society.

We have attached a copy of our GOPAC Highlights, which comprises our global, regional, and national activities in 2017, which gives greater details of our works.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Jakarta Office through [info@gopacnetwork.org](mailto:info@gopacnetwork.org), should you need any additional information. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,



**Endah T.D. Retnoastuti**  
Executive Director, GOPAC Jakarta Office

# GOPAC Year-End Newsletter

## Highlights of 2017



GOPAC wishes you a joyous season and a prosperous year ahead. Thank you for your support throughout 2017. We look forward to continuing our collaboration in the fight against corruption.

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

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## Main Report: 7th Forum of Parliamentarians at CoSP UNCAC

(Vienna, November 9, 2017)

The Forum of Parliamentarians has been a key component of engaging parliamentarians in UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). This year, the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC), along with GOPAC Oceania, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC), and UN Development Programme (UNDP) successfully held the 7th Forum of Parliamentarians during the 7th Conference of State Parties to the UNCAC in Vienna, on November 9, 2017. The forum focused on oversight matters and ways for Members of Parliament to improve development effectiveness.





The event noted the parliamentary oversight as a key component of good practice in the implementation of UNCAC. It discussed ways for parliamentarians to contribute towards localization of UNCAC by adapting international standards to national needs and playing an important oversight role in the monitoring and review of the national efforts to implement the UNCAC. The Forum also encouraged parliamentarians and State Parties to the UNCAC to incorporate similar good practices to SDG Goal 16 localization, measurement, and monitoring to bolster accountability and transparency.



The keynote speaker was GOPAC Chair H.E. Dr. Fadli Zon, who elaborated on GOPAC's role in parliamentary support, highlighted the elements of effective oversight, and introduced the recently launched GOPAC-UNDP SDGs Handbook for parliamentarians, entitled "Parliament's Role in Implementing the SDGs."

Other panelists included Hon. Shakeel Shabbir, MP and GOPAC Kenya Chair, whose presentation focused on the role of parliamentary committees in anti-corruption ([access the presentation here](#)); Hon. Milorad Mijatovic, GOPAC Serbia, who spoke about importance to motivate parliamentarians to act; Hon. Prof. Jacqueline Adhiambo Oduol, MP and member of GOPAC Kenya, who provided insights to gender focus in anti-corruption oversight ([access the presentation here](#)); Maria Adomeit from the UN-PRAC project who talked about UN-PRAC's support in the Pacific, in particular towards parliamentary oversight; Patrick Keuleers, UNDP Director of Governance and Peacebuilding, who elaborated on parliamentary partnerships to boost oversight and measuring SDG indicators and effectiveness ([access the presentation here](#)); and Sen. Dr. Isaac Mwaura, Kenya Senate, who stressed the need to ensure that the SDG slogan "Leaving No-one Behind" was implemented throughout, and emphasized the importance of ensuring that anti-corruption efforts are inclusive, including the involvement of marginalized groups and people with disabilities.

The 7th Parliamentary Forum also adopted the GOPAC Statement on Parliament Engagement on Corruption prevention and Asset Recovery. The statement was delivered by GOPAC Chair H.E. Dr. Fadli Zon at the Plenary Session of CoSP7 UNCAC, November 7, 2017. Kindly [access the full GOPAC Statement here](#).



GOPAC Chair delivered GOPAC Statement at the Plenary Session of CoSP 7 UNCAC



Opening of the 7th Session CoSP UNCAC at UN Vienna Headquarters



# GOPAC Held the Annual General Meeting 2017

(Nusa Dua, September 8, 2017)

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of GOPAC was successfully held in Nusa Dua, on 8 September 2017, supported by the Indonesian House of Representatives and the Committee of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation.



The AGM 2017 discussed 10 agenda items, as previously sent through an online publication in which all GOPAC members were invited to participate in-person or electronically. The discussions ranging from the review of GOPAC activity report October 2015-September 2017, deliberation of GOPAC's annual financial statement, review of constitutional amendments, adoption of operational plan for the next one year period, to the election of nominations for GOPAC's 7th Board of Director (2017-2019).

On his opening remarks, GOPAC Chair Dr. Fadli Zon recalled some milestones that GOPAC has reached in the past two years of his chairmanship. Dr. Zon mentioned that since October 2015, GOPAC has successfully participated in at least 37 events, including the workshop in the International Anti-Corruption Conference in Panama, and SDGs Workshop for Parliamentarians in Jakarta. He expressed his gratitude to all GOPAC members, praised their hard work and dedication to this organization. "It is your efforts and dedication that have made GOPAC a respectable global network in the fight against corruption," he added.

“Let's enhance our commitment to strengthen GOPAC in carrying out its noble vision to achieve accountability and empower parliamentarians in the fight against corruption.”

GOPAC Chair Dr. Fadli Zon on his opening remarks





Furthermore, based on GOPAC Constitution, the quorum of an AGM shall be at least 10 percent of the membership with representation from two-thirds (2/3) of the Regional Chapters. The AGM 2017 has only gained votes from 6.6 percent of the total membership, both from in-person attendance and electronic vote. Since the quorum has not been achieved, the AGM 2017 will be adjourned up to six months until the required number is reached. Consequently, the existing GOPAC's 6th Board of Director will continue to serve until the adjourned AGM gains quorum and the agenda items are officially endorsed.



The electronic AGM has also continued during the GOPAC 7th Forum of Parliamentarians at the UNCAC Conference of States Parties (CoSP), on November 9, 2017. The global secretariat and GOPAC Board members strongly invite all GOPAC members to contribute by casting their vote for the AGM 2017 agenda items. They can do so by sending an email to secretariat which contains their name, GOPAC Chapter or country, and their vote on whether to accept or reject all agenda items. GOPAC Secretariat is open to receive and respond any inquiries on this matter.



Left-to-right: Hon. Dr. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf (GOPAC Board Member), and Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (GOPAC Vice-Chair, Chair of APNAC Africa Region)



Left-to-right: Hon. Margaret Quirk (GOPAC Australia), Charles Chauvel (UNDP), and Hon. Dr. Carlos Alberto Perez Cuezaz (GOPAC Vice-Chair, GOPAC Mexico Chair)



GOPAC current Board members, left-to-right: Dr. Carlos Alberto Perez Cuevas, Dr. Naser Al-Sane, John Hyde, Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon, Hon. Dr. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, and Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu



# GOPAC Conducted a Panel Session at the World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development

(Nusa Dua, September 7, 2017)



Parliaments' role in supporting the implementation of the SDGs has been strengthened through a special panel discussion co-organized by GOPAC, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), UN Development Programme (UNDP), and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Held on 7 September 2017, the panel was a part of The World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development (PFSD) 2017 which took place in Nusa Dua, Bali, on 6-7 September 2017, hosted by the Indonesian House of Representatives.

GOPAC's panel discussion session on "Implementing Parliamentary Engagement on the SDGs" was moderated by GOPAC Secretary, John Hyde. GOPAC Chair, Dr. Fadli Zon gave his opening remark, followed by panel speakers from GOPAC's partner: Franklin De Vrieze (Parliamentary Adviser, WFD), Charles Chauvel (Team Leader of Inclusive Political Processes Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP), Yunety Tarigan (Program Associate on Anti-Corruption, UNODC), and Maria Lurdes de Sousa Bessa (Chair of SEAPAC, Member of GOPAC Timor-Leste).

This session mainly discussed the role of parliamentarians and partnerships in ensuring that the implementation and oversight of SDGs deliver real, measurable benefits to local communities. On his opening remarks, Dr. Zon mentioned that the only way to measure the real success of SDGs is for people to feel that their lives have markedly improved. "If people are faced with corruption in their daily lives, this will not happen. Let us work to help break the culture of corruption, and help ensure that the implementation of SDGs is effective and accountable," he stated.



Dr. Fadli Zon encouraged Parliamentarians to use GOPAC SDGs Handbook as a valuable resource in achieving 2030 agenda



Charles Chauvel (UNDP) exhibited the major toolkit, Parliamentary Handbook on SDGs



# GOPAC Indonesia Addressed UNCAC Implementation at National Conference on Corruption Eradication

(Jakarta, December 12, 2017)



On December 12, 2017, GOPAC Indonesia member and Member of Indonesian House of Representatives Hon. Rahayu S. Djojohadikusumo delivered her speech at the National Conference on Corruption Eradication in Jakarta, Indonesia. The conference was a part of International Anti-Corruption Day commemoration, which was organized by the Indonesian Corruption Eradication Commission. Hon. Rahayu presented GOPAC's view on the role of parliamentarians in supporting the implementation of UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in this major event.

As the only global network of parliamentarians focused solely on combating corruption, GOPAC acknowledges the importance of UNCAC through its commitment in establishing the GOPAC UNCAC Global Task Force (GTF). Further on her speech, Hon. Rahayu explained that GOPAC declared its support for the UNCAC and noted that strong parliamentary oversight would be essential to its effective implementation. Through the GTF, GOPAC also promotes the effective implementation of the UNCAC and identifies complementary improvements in the governance roles of parliamentarians.

During the press conference which was held afterwards, Hon. Rahayu stated the importance of strategic collaboration among national stakeholders in combating corruption.

“GOPAC is very open to collaborate strategically in maximizing institutional capacity, and ensuring the achievement of legislative reform as one of key elements in UNCAC.



# Niue Became the Latest Nation to Ratify the UNCAC

Following on from a successful workshop with Parliamentarians and GOPAC members in the Pacific Island State of Niue in August, Niue became the latest nation to accede to the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in November 2017. Niue GOPAC member and Minister Hon. Dalton Tagelagi joined GOPAC Oceania Chair John Hyde in Vienna for the 7th Conference of State Parties. Ministers from Nauru and the President of Kiribati also attended the event. Half of Niue's parliamentarians have joined GOPAC and the Speaker has agreed to progress a motion in the Legislative Assembly to officially establish the GOPAC Niue chapter.

(Picture: Niue GOPAC member Hon. Dalton Tagelagi and GOPAC Oceania Chair John Hyde)



## GOPAC Australia Held Biannual General Meeting, Hon. Margaret Quirk Was Elected as the Chair

GOPAC Australia held its Biannual General Meeting during the Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference (APSACC) in Sydney, Australia, on November 16, 2017. Office-bearers elected for the next two years are: Hon. Margaret Quirk MLA as the Chair, Hon. Nick Goiran as the Vice-Chair, John Hyde as Secretary, Hon. Liz Behjat as Treasurer, and Executive members are Melissa Parke, Hon. Matt Benson-Lidholm, and Peter Loney.

Furthermore, several GOPAC Australia members were also part of the Victoria Parliament's anti-corruption committee report which investigated establishing key performance indicators to help parliamentary oversight committees and the community measure the effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies. The report is available [here](#). GOPAC Oceania also made a major submission to the Australia Northern Territory Parliament inquiry into establishing an anti-corruption commission, the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Bill 2017, with several of GOPAC recommendations being supported in the Parliament's final report. A submission was also made to the amendment bill for the Cook Islands Crimes Act 2017, relating to anti-corruption.

## GOPAC Australia Held Biannual General Meeting, Hon. Margaret Quirk Was Elected as the Chair

GOPAC Oceania participated in the Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commissions Conference (APSACC) on November 14-16, 2017 in Sydney. The Chair, John Hyde, presented GOPAC Oceania's work in Vanuatu with the Vanuatu Correction Services Department to produce training and a workbook on the rehabilitation of parliamentarians who have been convicted of corruption.



In August 2017, John Hyde and GOPAC Australia Chair Margaret Quirk MLA, delivered the training in Vanuatu. (Fourteen Vanuatu MPs were jailed in 2015 for corruption and their parole periods began this year).



# GOPAC Chair Addressed Corruption and Inequality at the 136th IPU Assembly

(Dhaka, April 2, 2017)

On April 2, 2017, GOPAC Chair Dr. Fadli Zon addressed the 136th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and Related Meetings in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He spoke on the main theme of the assembly, “Redressing Inequalities: Delivering on Dignity and Well-Being for All.” GOPAC members from several countries were also among the attendees.



In the assembly, Dr. Zon called global parliamentarians to eliminate inequalities by combating corruption. He said that in its Jogjakarta Declaration, GOPAC had reaffirmed its vision of an equitable world where all citizens could live in equality of opportunity and prosperity. Corruption, unequal distribution of power and unequal distribution of wealth together formed a vicious circle.

“Nearly US\$ 1 trillion had been amassed through corruption, mostly by persons in positions of high authority, money that could be used to support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” Dr. Zon stated. He further emphasized that Parliaments must use their authority to harness resources to create prosperity and welfare for all, and introduced the SDGs Handbook as one of the major tool of GOPAC in strengthening Parliaments’ role in overseeing development programs. “GOPAC’s SDGs Handbook addresses the issue of corruption in SDGs and development programs, presents examples of experience and best practices from parliaments around the world,” he added.

“We need our parliamentarians to be strong and fully aware to the global pledge of SDGs. It is within such awareness that we are championing the mainstreaming of SDGs into the work of parliaments and members of parliaments by developing this Parliamentary Handbook on the SDGs.

## ARPAC Chair Gave a Lecture on the Fight against Political Corruption



The Chair of ARPAC, who is also the Executive Committee of GOPAC Board of Directors, Dr. Naser Al-Sane, delivered a lecture for the Gulf University of Science and Technology's MBA Program Seminar on October 24, 2017. Dr. Al-Sane addressed the theme of GOPAC and the fights against political corruption. He discussed about GOPAC's works in general, international prosecution for grand corruption, as well as GOPAC Global Task Forces and on-going project on Parliamentary SDGs Handbook. Dr. Naser emphasized GOPAC's approach in response to the political corruption, said "We works to strengthen parliamentary oversight of government, and promote the prosecution of the worlds corruption offenders."

## Niue Parliamentarians Boosted Legislative Role through an Induction Workshop



Niue's Parliamentarians are working to boost their legislative skills and gain a deeper understanding of UNCAC and Climate Change oversight at a three-day parliamentary induction workshop in the Pacific island nation on August 22-24, 2017. Legislative Assembly members, parliamentary staff and other stakeholders are attending the workshop facilitated by the UNDP and UNODC through the UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC). The Chair of GOPAC Samoa, Hon. Lemi Taefu, assisted the workshop with GOPAC Oceania Chair John Hyde.



# **GOPAC Chair Addressed Strategies in Combating Corruption at the World Justice Forum V**

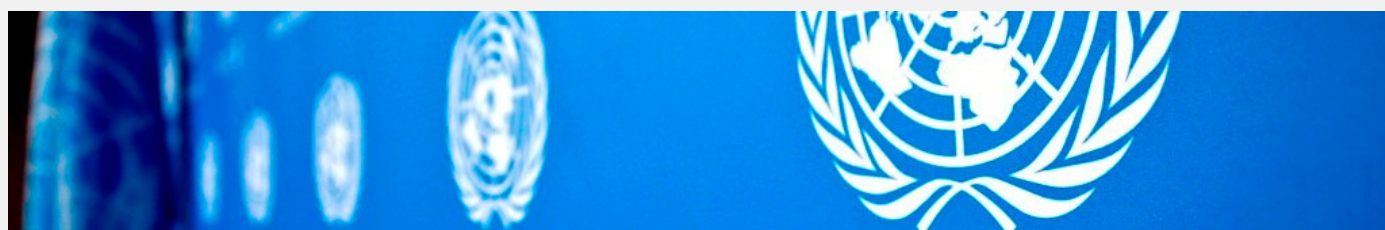
(The Hague, July 10-13, 2017)



On July 10-13, 2017, GOPAC Chair Dr. Fadli Zon represented GOPAC as a Panelist at World Justice Forum V held by World Justice Project® (WJP) in The Hague, Netherland. On this forum, GOPAC Chair emphasized his remarks by highlighting the essential roles of parliamentarians in combating corruption. He further explained about GOPAC's approach in anti corruption strategies which are improving capacity building of parliamentarians and making global coalition.

According to Dr. Zon, GOPAC is especially unique in that it is the only international network of Parliamentarians focused purely on combating corruption. "While other organizations might focus combating corruption through the executive and the judiciary, GOPAC's approach instead tries to maximize the anti-corruption power of parliaments, which in turn will make Parliamentarians the primary actor in the anti-corruption efforts," Dr. Zon stated. Therefore, GOPAC plays an important role especially as a platform to promote mutual commitment and cooperation among parliamentarians in combating corruption.

## **GOPAC Receives UN ECOSOC Special Consultative Status**



The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its coordination and management meeting of July 2017 adopted the recommendation of the Committee on NGOs to grant Special Consultative Status to GOPAC. "This consultative status will enable GOPAC and its parliamentary members to participate more fully in UN meetings and its processes," said GOPAC Chair Dr. Fadli Zon after receiving the official decision from UN ECOSOC, represented by Marc-André Dorel, Acting Chief of NGO Branch Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

# **GOPAC Chair Participated in the Global Legislative Openness Conference 2017**

(Kiev, May 19-20, 2017)

On May 19-20, 2017, GOPAC Chair Dr. Fadli Zon represented GOPAC as a Panelist at the Global Legislative Openness Conference in Kiev, Ukraine. The conference was organized by the Legislative Openness Working Group of Open Government Partnership (OGP), Ukraine's Open Parliament Initiative, and Parliament of Ukraine.

Leading legislators, government officials, and civil society representatives participated to discuss how openness can strengthen public trust in representative institutions and build a responsive 21st century legislature. Dr. Zon delivered speech on a panel on "Parliaments, Citizen Trusts, and Openness," stated that parliamentary openness agenda could help build citizen trust in parliaments generally.



Dr. Zon also gave some examples from the Indonesian House of Representatives which has made a strategic plan in legislative openness through the principles of transparency, utilization of information technology, and representativeness. Some of the efforts that have been undertaken are expanding communication channels through social media, websites, and Parliament TV, developing the legislation information system (LIS), as well as encouraging the establishment of aspirational house in each electoral district. "Through those efforts, the House seeks to open up a wider public engagement space in parliamentary activities," he added.

## **Making Progress in the Fight against Corruption: The Case of Mexico**

Chair of GOPAC Mexico, Dr. Carlos Alberto Pérez Cuevas, wrote an article on the International Anti-Corruption Academy's Alumnus magazine. Elucidating the problem and outlining the ongoing fight against corruption in his country, Dr. Cuevas stated, "It affects public and private companies, governments, and civil, political, and sporting associations, both in highly developed countries and less developed ones. But there are signs of hope in the fight against corruption – including in my own country, Mexico." He mentioned the recent enactment of an unprecedented National Anti-Corruption System (NAS) in Mexico, which represents a historic step in the country's fight against corruption. Dr. Cuevas also participated as co-author of the book Auditing, Transparency and Accountability, as he wrote an essay on "The Challenge of Anticorruption Combat and the National Anticorruption System in Mexico." We invite you to read his contribution.



# The Launch of GOPAC SDGs Handbook at Global Parliamentary Network Conference

(Washington D.C., April 18, 2017)

On April 17-18, 2017, over 160 parliamentarians from 66 countries gathered in Washington D.C. for 2017 Global Parliamentary Conference, co-organized by the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF. During this conference, GOPAC launched a major legislative toolkit, "Parliament's Role in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: A Parliamentary Handbook," to begin a global effort to implement the UN SDGs in the parliaments of the world.



Panelists (left-to-right): Akaash Maharaj, Magdi Amin, Charles Chauvel, Abdihamid Mao



"Achieving the SDGs will require a monumental act of legislative will," said GOPAC CEO Akaash Maharaj

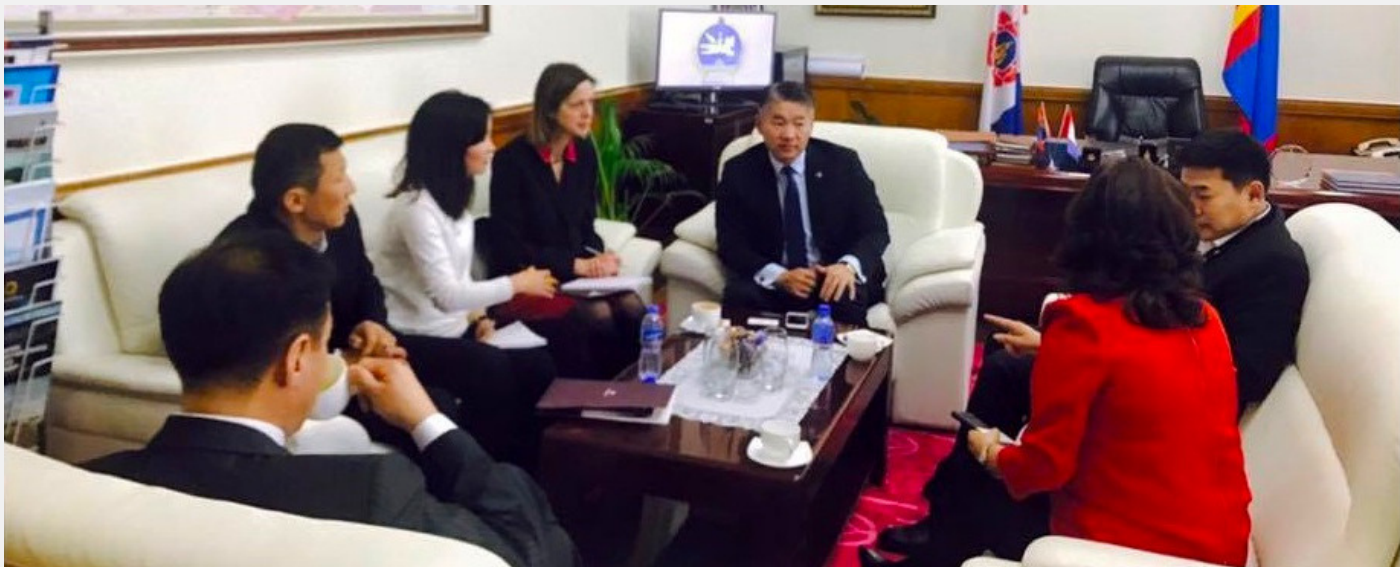
GOPAC created the handbook in partnership with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). The launch was part of the official agenda of the Global Parliamentary Conference, on the panel discussion of Parliamentarians' Role in Tackling the SDGs. Among the speakers are Akaash Maharaj (GOPAC CEO), Abdihamid Mao (IsDB), and Magdi Amin (World Bank Group); moderated by Charles Chauvel (UNDP). GOPAC Chair Dr. Fadli Zon also sent his message for the occasion [you may access it here](#).

"Realizing the SDGs targets will require monumental political will and effort by national legislatures and national governments," said GOPAC CEO Akaash Maharaj. "Our new handbook will give legislators the tools, guidance, and experience of their peers, to help them turn international ambitions into national achievements," he added.

## Mongolian Parliamentarians Relaunched the MONPAC National Chapter

The Mongolian Parliament officially re-established the GOPAC National Chapter in Mongolia, facilitated by the Asia Foundation. The chapter which named as MONPAC (Mongolian Parliamentarians Against Corruption), is now being chaired by Hon. Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai.

The newly-elected MONPAC Chair, Hon. Oyun-Erdene stated, "The essence of an effective democracy and the balance of power between the three branches of the government has become blurry due to the current state of corruption in Mongolia. By forming the MONPAC as a national chapter of GOPAC, we will be able to learn from international best practices to better address the problem areas and develop an anti-corruption agenda tailored to our needs."



On the picture: Mongolian MP who is also the member of MONPAC, Hon. J. Enkhbayar during one of the early MONPAC meetings with the Asia Foundation

MONPAC main priority areas include raising public awareness, improve citizen participation, provide legal and political assistance, as well as support for the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Program of Mongolia that was passed by the Parliament earlier this year. They have already initiated a number of discussions with key Members of Parliament, to share information and ensure cooperation with civil society organizations.

## **GOPAC CEO Assisted Fijian Parliament in Advancing the National Code of Conduct**

GOPAC CEO, Mr. Akaash Maharaj, helped the Fijian Parliament to develop legislation for a new national Code of Conduct on ethics and standards in public life. It will apply to the country's President, Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, MPs, judges, and senior civil servants. The Code will create a statutory requirement for office holders to file public disclosures of their income and assets, it will bind them to new rules against illicit activities and against conflicts of interest, and it will subject them to investigation by a new Anti-Corruption Commission for any transgressions.





Mr. Maharaj's work flowed out of an earlier Code of Conduct workshop in Fiji, led by John Hyde, GOPAC Global Secretary and Chair of GOPAC Oceania. The project was generously funded by the UNDP Pacific Office. He further praised the efforts of the MPs of Fiji's Law, Justice, and Human Rights Committee. "We came to a cross-party consensus on almost all the elements for the new Code," he said. "This no small feat in a country still coming to terms with a history of multiple armed coups over the past thirty years. I commend my colleagues for summoning the courage to rise above partisanship to advance the national good."

The UNDP subsequently hosted a luncheon for Mr. Maharaj to address GOPAC's Fijian members, which was overseen by Prof. Biman Prasad MP, Chair of GOPAC Fiji. He reported that the assembled legislators discussed shared plans to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Fiji, to build legislative capacity across the South Pacific islands, and to strengthen democratic oversight of international peacekeeping.

## **GOPAC Chair Delivered Keynote Speech on KAS Young Politicians' Caucus Meeting 2017**

**(Siem Reap, February 2, 2017)**

During the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Young Political Leaders Caucus Meeting 2017 which was held on 2-4 February 2017 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, GOPAC Chair Dr. Fadli Zon stated that the Parliament has an important role in ensuring the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On his keynote speech, Dr. Zon said that as a part of global stakeholders, GOPAC is committed to ensure that the SDGs agenda is not only strong at the global level, but also at the local level.



Dr. Fadli Zon with other panelists, Arndt Husar and Dr. Lai Choo Malone-Lee



Dr. Fadli Zon with all the Konrad-Adenauer's delegates

Dr. Zon also stated that combating corruption is essential to ensure the effective achievement of SDGs. The only way to measure the real success of SDGs is for people around the world to feel that their lives have markedly improved. If they are faced with corruption in their daily lives, this will not happen. "Let us work to help break the culture of corruption and impunity, and help ensure that Parliament and other public institutions are accountable and trustworthy," he added, while promoting the major GOPAC's tool, SDGs Handbook for Parliamentarians.

## **GOPAC Mexico's Anti-Corruption Activities**

The Chair of GOPAC Mexico, Dr. Carlos Alberto Pérez Cuevas, and GOPAC Mexico members have been participated actively in several anti-corruption activities and programs. In June, Dr. Cuevas represented GOPAC during the press conference alongside GOPAC member Sen. Dr. Fernando Enrique Mayans Canabal in the launch of "Tribunal de la Patria," an initiative to combat corruption and impunity. Dr. Cuevas supported this powerful initiative, which will hold public officials accountable.

In addition, Dr. Cuevas also participated in the discussion forum of constitutionalist experts on National Anti-Corruption System (SNA). The SNA is a comprehensive set of anti-corruption measures, which envisages the establishment and expansion of various national bodies to improve cooperation between state institutions, and enable a better exchange of information between different authorities.

Further on the works within parliament, GOPAC Mexico held a working meeting with Mexican legislators to present GOPAC and invite more members to join the global network. They also built a joint agreement between GOPAC and Anti-Corruption Caucus of Mexican Parliament.



GOPAC Mexico had a joint meeting with Mexican Parliament's Anti-Corruption Caucus



Konrad-Adenauer's discussion forum on the Mexican National Anti-Corruption System (SNA)



Dr. Carlos Alberto Pérez Cuevas and Sen. Dr. Fernando E. M. Canabal, supporting the anti-corruption initiative "Tribunal de la Patria"



GOPAC Mexico working meeting with Mexican Parliamentarians and induction of new members



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# ARPAC to Conduct a Project on Strengthening the Role of Arab Parliaments in Implementing UNCAC



Complementing the project Strengthening Anti-Corruption Policies and Mechanisms - MENA Regional, the “Arab Region Parliamentarians Against Corruption” (ARPAC) is implementing the project Strengthening the role of Arab parliaments in the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). It is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and aims at enhancing parliamentarians’ capacity to oversee and hold their governments’ accountable for anti-corruption efforts and obligations.

The idea of this project came up based on the results of the regional report Anti-Corruption Policies & mechanisms, and the role of Arab parliaments which was developed in the framework of the project “Strengthening Anti-Corruption Policies and Mechanisms - MENA Regional”. It was noticed that Arab parliaments ratify the UNCAC, however with the absence of an active role in monitoring its implementation, and this due to the lack of mandatory and binding provisions for the participation of parliaments in holding their governments accountable for the implementation of the Convention; or in the formal review mechanisms and self-assessment reports of the UNCAC as this only falls within the competence of the governments and anti-corruption commissions, with a marginalized role of the civil society. In addition, the report pointed out to the weak role of Arab parliaments in the preparation or adoption of national anti-corruption strategies, as well as the weak role in monitoring the development of plans to combat corruption. ARPAC is in the process of contracting a UNCAC expert to develop a professional guide, and training of trainers’ manual for parliamentarians on mechanisms to follow-up on governments’ self-assessments and UNCAC review reports.

## Representative from Singapore Embassy Visited GOPAC Jakarta Office

Ms. Chang Yuen Yi, Second Secretary (political affairs) of the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore to Indonesia, visited GOPAC Jakarta Office on December 21 to meet with Ms. Endah Retnoastuti, the Executive Director of GOPAC. The works of GOPAC and its overseas network, current issues on anti-corruption, as well as GOPAC’s project on parliamentary oversight of SDGs were discussed during the meeting. They also explored the possibility of further collaboration to work with the Parliament of Singapore, and reach the Member of Parliaments to join GOPAC. “We look forward to strengthening our network within Southeast Asian countries,” said Ms. Retnoastuti.

