

# Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct

## GLOBAL TASK FORCE



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## Why Implement a Code on Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct?

If they are to effectively represent citizens, Members of Parliament (MPs) must carry out their legislative and oversight roles in the public interest and do so in a way that reflects the ethical standards of their community. In order to do this, parliaments need to develop codes or regimes of ethics and conduct with appropriate rules and mechanisms for enforcement. These codes and regimes set a clear standard for parliamentarians reducing the subjective nature of determining acceptable behaviour in parliament. They strengthen the public trust and help promote good governance and greater openness. They also improve MPs' understanding of their duties as elected representatives and reinforce parliamentary procedural etiquette. Making these standards more transparent increases public trust and reinforces government accountability in the eyes of the public.

## GOPAC and Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct

The Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct Global Task Force (GTF-PEC) recognizes that parliament, which sets the legal framework and oversees the administrative branch of government, plays a central role in preventing public corruption. The GTF-PEC has been active in promoting the adoption of codes or regimes of ethics and conduct that are tailored to the local context in each country, in both established democracies and emerging democracies. It teaches that parliamentarians should actively and visibly carry out their democratic roles (representation, legislation and oversight) in the public interest and do so in a manner that meets societal expectations of ethical behaviour.



## The GTF - PEC National Workshop

The GTF-PEC national workshop is a progressive series of two-day events. The workshop helps a Members of Parliament (MPs) establish an effective and appropriate ethics and conduct code or regime in their country. If a code or regime already exists, the workshop educates MPs about the existing code or regime and empowers them to facilitate its implementation.

The workshop builds on the *Handbook on Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct: A Guide for Parliamentarians*. It is designed to facilitate further development or establishment, where needed, of appropriate and effective ethics and conduct codes or regimes. It educates parliamentarians on Article 8 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), entitled *Codes of Conduct for Public Officials*, recognizing that each parliament must identify the content, scope and way in which the code or regime will be adapted in its respective country for it to be relevant and successful.

This workshop provides a unique peer-to-peer learning opportunity that will ensure MPs have a strong understanding of the value components of codes or regimes of ethics and conduct to improve parliamentary ethics and conduct in their country.

### Objectives

- Build the capacity of parliamentarians to develop or improve a code or regime of ethics and conduct for parliamentarians in their country
- Educate parliamentarians on Article 8 of the UNCAC entitled *Codes of Conduct for Public Officials*
- Encourage the use of the *Handbook on Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct* and further help to develop or establish appropriate and effective ethics and conduct codes or regimes
- Increase parliamentarians understanding of ethics and conduct codes or regimes and regional/global best practices
- Provide the opportunity for parliamentarians to reflect on the effectiveness and appropriateness of their code or regime
- Equip parliamentarians to improve the public's trust in elected officials

### Guidelines

- Workshops are held in Parliament
- A GTF-PEC regional member acts as Workshop Facilitator
- The Global Secretariat develops the agenda and subject matter resources
- The Global Secretariat covers participation costs of the GTF technical experts
- The National Chapter covers all local costs