

Parliamentary Oversight **GLOBAL TASK FORCE**



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Importance of Parliamentary Oversight

It is the duty of every parliamentarian to hold the executive branch to account. Parliamentarians contribute to the fight against corruption by requiring the executive to follow the rules related to financial operations. They also encourage the executive to openly report to parliament on how it exercises its powers and uses public resources. By holding state institutions accountable, representing citizens and exercising their legislative powers, parliamentarians are key players in the fight against corruption.

GOPAC and Parliamentary Oversight

The Parliamentary Oversight Global Task Force (GTF-PO) focuses on financial and operational integrity including the on-going review of all government revenue and expenditures; legislation and other parliamentary rules establishing government financial control practices; procedures to account for and report revenues and expenditures; and procedures and authorities for parliamentary oversight of financial administration. It also includes legislation and other rules that guide and enable parliament to oversee the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

The GTF-PO was established at GOPAC's second Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption in Arusha, Tanzania where a group of parliamentarians recognized the importance of effective parliamentary oversight in ensuring good governance and in combating corruption. The purpose of this group is to develop practical parliamentary oversight assistance, research and training for GOPAC Regional and National Chapters and parliamentarians.

The GTF - PO National Workshop

The GTF-PO national workshop is a progressive series of two-day events. It is beneficial for countries at all stages of parliamentary development.

This workshop provides a unique peer-to-peer learning opportunity that will ensure Members of Parliament (MPs) have a strong understanding of the institutions of oversight in their country. It gives MPs the opportunity to discuss challenges to oversight and facilitates a discussion on how oversight can be improved. It also provides an overview of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and other relevant international anti-corruption treaties to leave participants with an understanding of best regional practices.

Objectives

- Expand parliamentarians' knowledge and capacity to fight corruption by exposing them to parliamentary oversight, research analysis, experts and knowledge in the field
- Develop a clear understanding of the institutions of oversight and the important role that parliamentarians play in parliamentary oversight
- Build capacity of Members of Parliament (MPs) in their country's oversight institutions and understand how MPs interact with oversight bodies
- Empower parliamentarians to identify local challenges
- Develop an action plan for the GOPAC National Chapter to address oversight challenges
- Provide broad-based educational and other capacity enhancing activities focusing on the parliamentary oversight role and tools to assist in combating corruption

Guidelines

- Workshops are held in Parliament
- A GTF-PO 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