



Fifth Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption

Final Report



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



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Session 1: Effective Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

- Speakers:** Dimitri Vlassis, Chief, Anti-Corruption and Crime Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Hon. Kamaruddin Jaffar, Member of Parliament, Malaysia
Toshihiro Tanaka, United Nations Development Program Country Director, Philippines
- Moderator:** Dr. Naser Al Sane, Chair, United Nations Convention Against Corruption Global Task Force
- Reactor:** Dr. Alexander N. Savenkov, Member of State Duma, Deputy Chairman, Committee on Security and Countering Corruption, Federal Assembly, Russian Federation

The first session discussed the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the presenters were Hon. Kamaruddin Jaffar, Dimitri Vlassis, and Toshihiro Tanaka. In their opening remarks, Mr. Vlassis emphasized how the UNCAC has been adopted in 165 countries around the world with the latest being Myanmar. Hon. Jaffar highlighted the importance of domesticating the UNCAC within a specific country's legal environment. Mr. Tanaka opened his remarks by commenting on natural disasters impacting anti-corruption efforts, such as Typhoon Pablo, which caused devastation and over 1000 deaths in the Philippines in late 2012.

Mr. Vlassis explained the evolution of the UNCAC and how its foundation rests on four core pillars: Prevention, Criminalization and Law Enforcement, International Cooperation, and Asset Recovery. He then stressed the importance of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) as an intergovernmental structure to support the implementation of the UNCAC. CoSP calls on states parties to meet every two years to report on implementation strategies. Hon. Jaffar reiterated the importance of CoSP and called on members to send official delegations to the fifth CoSP in Panama in November 2013.

Mr. Vlassis also noted the review mechanism process of the UNCAC. Building on this, Hon. Jaffar remarked that GOPAC and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have been working together to develop a UNCAC Anti-Corruption Assessment Tool for Parliamentarians which supports the Review Mechanism by identifying critical gaps in the implementation process of the UNCAC for states parties. Hon. Jaffar further remarked that the Assessment Tool should be used at a national level to assist parliamentarians with establishing



benchmarks, sharing good practices, mobilizing public opinion from civil society and NGOs, and identifying priorities. Lastly, Hon. Jaffar pointed out that three successful workshops on the Assessment Tool have been held in GOPAC chapters in Burkina Faso, Timor Leste and Morocco.

Mr. Tanaka commented on the significance of the introduction of “Going Beyond the Minimum” by the UNDP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to facilitate a more open review process and how it should be an integral part of oversight institutions.

Comments made in the open forum underlined the influence of regional organizations in fighting corruption, as Mr. Vlassis voiced by mentioning the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He also noted that the state has the capacity to alter existing mandates or particular agencies instead of introducing new ones in strengthening anti-corruption regimes. Lastly, after officially announcing the launch of the UNDP-GOPAC Anti-Corruption Assessment for Parliamentarians, Senator Angara presented it to the assembly.



Session 2: Parliamentary Oversight and the Role of Good Audit in the Fight against Corruption – Using Evidence to Enforce Anti-Corruption Laws

- Speakers:** Prof. Peter Loney, Adjunct Professor, Deakin University, Australia
Hon. Bryon Wilfert, Senior Strategic Advisor, Tactix Government Relations and Public Affairs
Conchita Carpio Morales, Ombudsman, Republic of the Philippines
- Moderator:** Donya Aziz, member of GOPAC's Parliamentary Oversight Global Task Force
- Reactor:** Hon. Karim Ghellab, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Morocco

Session two discussed parliamentary oversight and the role of good audit, highlighting the use of evidence in enforcing anti-corruption legislation. Professor Peter Loney began the discussion by stressing the importance of transparency, accountability, and good governance as cornerstones to effective democratic government. He noted that the proper use of public money is crucial to the integrity of the democratic operation of a state. Hon. Bryon Wilfert noted that effective oversight of government is provided by political opposition members and that many countries are critically weak in opposition. Conchita Carpio-Morales likewise emphasized the role of proper oversight institutions.

Following this, Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) were discussed as central to effective regime transparency and accountability. Prof. Loney emphasized how SAIs oversees executive sector spending which can be manifested in a number of ways; for example, in a Westminster system, an independent Auditor-General can audit public accounts while a parliamentary committee can report these accounts to the legislature. A primary role of SAIs is to ensure public money is used properly and that spending complies with relevant legislation. Similarly, Hon. Wilfert spoke about the importance of having an Auditor General. Public Accounts Committees (PACs) were also discussed as they are usually the main mechanism for financial scrutiny.

In a practical example, Ms. Carpio-Morales detailed how the Philippines' Office of the Ombudsman has adopted a three-pronged approach in deterring and detecting corruption by using punitive enforcement and corruption prevention, and by promoting anti-corruption in the media and in educational initiatives. Additionally, she noted that advancements in information technology can help spread anti-corruption knowledge, with government websites being a key role in spreading this knowledge.



Several representatives contributed to the discussion. For one, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco, Hon. Karim Ghellab, stated that oversight bodies in parliament should have the authority to investigate the political and institutional roles of judiciaries in fighting corruption. During the open forum, a delegate from Peru commented that commissions should be established with an end objective to eliminate parliamentary immunity in criminal cases. In addition, a delegate from Botswana called for an increase in internal audit capacity and to better define the roles of internal auditors.

In closing, Ms. Carpio-Morales recommended *The Role of Parliaments in Holding Government to Account and Controlling Corruption* authored by John Williams as a useful reference. Likewise, Hon. Wilfert stated that, while MPs may not support government agendas, they should have access to appropriate tools to monitor the government to ensure proper transparency exists.



Session 3: Anti-Money Laundering Laws vs. Bank Secrecy

- Speakers:** Hon. Roy Cullen, Chair, GOPAC's Anti-Money Laundering Global Task Force
Atty. Teresita Herbosa, Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, Republic of the Philippines
- Moderator:** Sen. Teofisto Guingona, Senate of the Philippines
- Reactors:** Hon. Kentse Rammisi, Member of Parliament, Botswana
Dr. Majda Al Fallah, Member of Parliament, Libya
Hon. Luis Augusto, Member of Parliament, Mozambique
Hon. Yves Nidegger, Member of Parliament, Switzerland
Hon. Rosemary Seninde, Member of Parliament, Uganda.

Session three debated anti-money laundering (AML) efforts, bank secrecy, and financial corruption. Hon. Roy Cullen introduced the topic by explaining the objectives of the Anti-Money Laundering Global Task Force and cited the Philippines as an example of strong efforts in improving an AML regime, noting two bills in the Senate on money laundering and terrorist financing currently awaiting approval. Atty. Teresita Herbosa introduced her presentation by introducing the Philippines' Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) of 2001 and its inclusionary Anti-Money Laundering Commission (AMLC) as crucial to the Philippines' anti-money laundering and anti-corruption regime.

Hon. Cullen also highlighted the roles of parliamentarians in respect to anti-money laundering; namely, they are responsible for proposing and enacting legislation, ensuring the establishment and funding of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), alerting citizens to deficiencies in national corruption and AML legislation, and working with the international community. He also commented on the challenges bank secrecy laws place on proper investigations and how adequate legislation is needed to circumvent over-powerful laws that protect those guilty of corruption and money laundering. In turn, Atty. Herbosa discussed examples from the Philippines such as amendments to the AMLA which address money laundering and terrorist financing as outlined in the Financial Action Task Force's Improving Global AML/CFT Compliance. She also noted that the impeachment of the former Philippines Chief Justice in January 2012 accelerated calls for amending the national Bank Secrecy Act.



Atty. Herbosa then discussed the significance of three main types of money laundering: fraud-based money laundering, identity theft, and the use of a legitimate business as cover to launder money. She cited examples of the AMLC's initiatives against money laundering such as issuing freeze orders which, by 31 December 2012, totalled PHP3.3 billion (US\$80.949 million; CAD\$83.146 million).

During the open forum, one delegate took issue with Hon. Cullen's statements on bank secrecy. The delegate argued that bank secrecy laws do not necessarily protect those involved with money laundering using Switzerland as an example for its tough anti-money laundering legislation while respecting bank secrecy. Hon. Cullen countered this by emphasizing that more progress still needs to be conducted on bank secrecy while acknowledging the cooperation of Swiss authorities in instances of money laundering investigations; moreover, that tax havens in the Caribbean and Europe challenge effective global anti-money laundering efforts. A Swiss delegate also noted that the assets of former leaders in Libya were frozen in conjunction with Swiss authorities as an example of effective investigations. A representative from Uganda also appealed for assistance from Filipino parliamentarians in constructing a meaningful and effective anti-money laundering legislation. Atty. Herbosa responded by stressing the importance of establishing a legal framework that complies with global standards as a starting point for stronger Ugandan anti-money laundering laws. Lastly, a delegate from Morocco contributed to the discussion by stating how there must be a strong focus on creating FIUs and the need for robust money laundering councils.



Session 4: The Right to Information and Civil Society Participation in the Fight Against, and Prevention of, Corruption

Speakers: Hon. Leila De Lima, Secretary, Department of Justice, Republic of the Philippines

Hugette Labelle, Chair, Transparency International

Moderator: Sen. Franklin M. Drilon, Senate of the Philippines

Reactor: Dr. Laode Ida, Deputy Speaker, House of Regional Representatives, Republic of Indonesia

Session four covered the right to information and civil society's participation in fighting and preventing corruption. The moderator, Sen. Franklin M. Drilon, stressed how corruption exists when there is a lack of transparency of government activities and spending. Hon. Leila De Lima commented that Freedom of Information (FOI) laws should be looked upon as a human right in the state's obligation to ensure the promotion, protection, and fulfillment of right to information laws. She noted that the first FOI legislation was passed by the Swedish Diet in 1766 and that FOI promotes government transparency and openness which in turn increases the population's confidence in the government. Hugette Labelle similarly stressed that access to information is a fundamental aspect of any government. Lastly, she commented that GOPAC's contribution and growth is crucial in promoting FOI legislation.

Ms. Labelle reflected on how transparency empowers people as informed participants of their respective governments. She cited many reasons why FOI laws are important, including: to ensure transparency and to prevent corruption in political campaigns. She also explained that they are crucial in the disclosure of assets, for the justice system, and in state infrastructure projects. Ms. Labelle said it is the duty of parliamentarians to make information about these sectors available to the public, stressing the need for strong leadership; for example, she cited Brazil's law to publish government disbursements online by midnight each day as an exercise in publicizing government financial information. Hon. De Lima pointed out that FOI laws must include the maximum amount of disclosure combined with clear and quick procedures for obtaining this information. She also emphasized that well-informed citizens can and will meaningfully participate in state governance under a strong FOI regime. Lastly, Hon. De Lima acknowledged the Filipino philosophy of "Tuwid na Daan" ('Straight/Righteous Path') under the current administration which translates into the need to pass an FOI Law, the government's commitment towards transparency, the public's interest to request information, and the speedy processing of such request.



Dr. Ida, the reactor to this segment, issued caution to recognizing corruption and the mishandling of FOI. He noted how the Marcos regime in the Philippines was similar to the Suharto regime in Indonesia – the top echelons of government being largely responsible for dramatic instances of corruption and unaccountable governance. He further commented on how democratization can decentralize corruption from the centre of government, spreading it to sub-national units.

The open forum began with Khadija Rouisii, a delegate from Morocco, stating that governments should also ensure information is properly archived for easy access to the public in the future; however, he also pointed out that in many cases, previous regimes may destroy documents which can be used as evidence to illustrate how the regime was involved in illegal activity. Aderito Guho da Costa, a delegate from Timor Leste, commented on how his country has adopted access to information tools such as an e-procurement system, live telecasts of parliament, and a government website for the Judicial System Monitoring Programme. Hon. De Lima commented on this by emphasizing the importance of political will and the sincerity of the administration in ensuring transparency mechanisms are properly implemented, working, and monitored.



Session 5: Transparency in Public Procurement with Business and Civil Society Oversight

Speakers: Hamid Sharif, Country Director, People's Republic of China Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank

Kyle Wombolt, Head of Asia Investigations and Compliance, Herbert Smith Freehills

Moderator: Hon. Willias Madzimore, House of Assembly, Zimbabwe

Reactor: H. E. Sen. Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang, President of the Senate of the Parliament of Malaysia

Session five discussed how transparency strategies affect oversight in public procurement. Hamid Sharif opened the session by highlighting the significance of asking who exactly determines what to buy and the basis for that person's decision. In his opening remarks, Kyle Wombolt spoke of the contribution private businesses can make to improve procurement and anti-corruption regimes.

Mr. Wombolt stated that procurement takes up between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the GDP of leading economies whereas this may comprise up to 50 per cent of the GDP for developing countries. He further noted that the overall global costs in corrupt procurement activities are in excess of US\$1 trillion. Mr. Sharif in turn commented on how private businesses are increasingly signing commitments for 'cleaner procurement' and integrity pacts to ensure transparency in government procurement. Mr. Wombolt stressed that civil society groups can request assistance from organizations such as Transparency International and Social Accountability International to train them with proper knowledge of business principles in respect to countering bribery and corruption.

The discussion then turned to country examples. In Malaysia, for instance, transparency is of paramount importance as transparency assists in eliminating corruption opportunities. There was a broad agreement that the degree of transparency can be increased by empowering investors and civil society as they can serve as watchdogs for public sector integrity to help raise awareness. For example, private companies bidding on contracts with the Malaysian government must agree to sign Malaysia's Integrity Pact and a Corporate Integrity Pledge which binds bidders to refrain from engaging in corruption during the procurement process. In Russia, an "attitude of transparency" is being further developed to enhance state procurement procedures with the private sphere. These attitudes have highlighted the significance of creating laws on accountability, criminal liability, access to information on public procurement, and declaring openness as essential for civil society participation.



During the open forum, Mr. Sharif responded to the Ghanaian representative who voiced his concern over anti-money laundering conventions by arguing that parliamentarians should refrain from board meetings so as to not compromise their oversight role in government. Mr. Sharif then concluded by providing recommendations to develop systems to ensure that money is not wasted in investigations of corruption in procurement. Likewise, Mr. Wombolt emphasized the importance of civil society and reiterated that it should be included as willing participants in fighting corruption.



Session 6: Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct

- Speakers:** Hon. Ghassan Moukheiber, Member of Parliament, Lebanon
Laura Sanz-Levia, Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO), Council of Europe
Scott Hubli, National Democratic Institute
- Moderator:** Mary King, Secretary, GOPAC's Board of Directors
- Reactor:** Sen. Mian Raza Rabbani, Deputy Secretary General, Pakistan People's Party

Session six discussed parliamentary ethics and proper conduct of parliamentarians. Scott Hubli began by mentioning the significance of the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in monitoring parliament. Similarly, Hon. Ghassan Moukheiber recalled the Handbook for Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct and that it should be widely circulated to encourage knowledge of its workings on three core levels: principles, rules, and regulatory framework. Laura Sanz-Levia introduced herself and explained the origins of GRECO, noting that countries have come together in GRECO to demonstrate their willingness to subject to international analysis.

Mr. Hubli called for establishing a system of benchmarks and emphasized that, on an organizational level, institutional structures and institutional independence are needed to make ethical norms transcend parliamentary organizations, such as democratic elections. He also noted that these needed to be codified into best practices, citing the website www.OpeningParliament.org as an example. Hon. Moukheiber commented on what it takes to establish a successful parliamentary ethics and conduct regime; mainly, political will, an agreement on ethical principles, developing detailed rules, and establishing a regulatory system to train members. He also cited seven key aspects to guide the establishment of a Code of Ethics for parliamentarians: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership. Ms. Sanz-Levia discussed how GRECO conducts evaluations to measure state compliance with anti-corruption provisions which run between four and six years. She detailed how GRECO evaluation teams record weaknesses and strengths in the implementation of national anti-corruption measures and that they analyze the collected information/data to produce recommendations to countries on how to improve anti-corruption legislation. She also argued that the best sanction is when the electorate refrains from voting in members who transgress ethical codes of conduct and those who engage in corruption. In his closing remarks, Mr. Hubli reiterated the need for parliaments to engage CSOs at national and global levels.



Sen. Mian Raza Rabbani, a reactor to this session, highlighted that ethics for parliamentarians should also consider the domestic history of specific countries in the context of global politics; this, in turn, should be contextualized with respect to developing democracies contrasted to developed democracies. He further noted that there is a feeling of overconfidence with the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) which still demands a critical approach from those involved in the process of implementing the UNCAC in order to fully combat corruption. Sen. Surachai Leingboonlertchai enunciated how establishing public trust is paramount in assuring that parliamentarians are governed by rigid ethical guidelines.

During the open forum, Hon. Bryan Wilfert from Canada commented that ethics require clear and decisive vetting processes for parliamentarians such as police background checks and financial disclosure. Partly in answer to Sen. Rabbani's comments, Mr. Hubli remarked that the dichotomy between developing and developed democracies is essential to acknowledge, yet improvements are always required despite the stage of progress of development. Ms. Sanz-Levia pointed out the impact of the media in discussing parliamentary ethics and that it plays an important role in scrutinizing parliament. Lastly, Hon. John Ssimbwa of Uganda commented that parliamentarians need to set minimum standards to obtain in order to ensure the best interest of the public.



Session 7: Role of Women Parliamentarians and the GOPAC Women in Parliament Network

- Speakers:** Hon. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, Member of Parliament, Indonesia
Sen. Pia Cayetano, Member of the Senate of the Philippines, member of GOPAC's Participation of Society Global Task Force
Dr. Donya Aziz, Member of National Assembly, Parliament of Pakistan
- Moderator:** Yasmin Ratansi, former member of Parliament, Canada
- Reactor:** Dr. Theerarat Samrejvanich, National Assembly of Thailand

Yasmin Ratansi opened the seventh session on the role of women in parliament and GOPAC's Women in Parliament Network by noting that, globally, only about 9.8 per cent to 20 per cent of parliamentarians are women. However, she emphasized the importance of this session and GOPAC's initiative to discuss how women can be better represented in parliaments around the world and as participants in the fight against corruption. Hon. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf began her segment by articulating how corruption comes from weak leadership and that it disintegrates accountability and public trust in government. She then emphasized the importance of increasing the number of women parliamentarians in the world; furthermore, that their roles should be increased in their respective parliaments. Sen. Pia S. Cayetano made the observation that only 65 of the 284 seats in the Filipino House of Representatives are occupied by women and that only three women sit in the Philippines' Senate. Dr. Donya Aziz commented how women in politics are frequently placed in 'maternal' roles, such as ministers of health and other social services instead of finance, accounting, and defence.

Hon. Ali Assegaf also shed light on how corruption distinctively affects women (and children) and that women should be encouraged to counter corruption and its detriments to women. She further encouraged empowerment of women parliamentarians and those ascribing to be parliamentarians. Sen. Cayetano echoed Hon. Ali Asegaf's observation by acknowledging how women are vulnerable to different health challenges and generally rely more on subsidized health services. Hence, she argued for greater representation of women as this might lead to better social services and better delivery of these services. Sen. Cayetano commented on the relationship between gender and corruption in democratic institutions, noting that democracies increase the probability of discovery for those engaging in corruption. Dr. Aziz stressed that women need to be encouraged and supported to participate in politics and government. She also mentioned that information programs should be arranged so women in politics can share their experiences and that men interested in promoting



gender equality be encouraged to join such programs. Dr. Aziz highlighted the success of women in Pakistan's parliament with their participation in passing 11 pieces of legislation concerning women's rights without strong opposition from male counterparts.

In her conclusion, Sen. Cayetano said that women are more likely to serve senior parliamentary positions in democracies and that a cost-effective and politically feasible method to clear corruption in government is to promote gender equality, increase women's numbers in government, and encourage women's participation in politics.

The reactor to this session, Dr. Theerarat Samrejvanich, firstly highlighted how Yingluck Shinawatra became the first woman to serve as Thailand's Prime Minister following the 2011 elections. She then egressed into a discussion of how women are crucial to participating in government and politics; in addition, that women are less likely to engage in corrupt activities.

The open forum then began with Peruvian representative Luz Salgado Rubianes stating that Peru's legislature contains nearly 50 per cent women and that they advanced the promotion of women in politics. Mexican Congresswoman Margaret Nasha stressed the need to train women parliamentarians and to empower them with the proper information and skills needed to fight corruption. In response, Dr. Ali Assegaf agreed on the need to train women parliamentarians and underlined how GOPAC is an important vehicle for promoting women in government. In turn, Dr. Aziz commented that the media and popular biases against women can weaken the importance and role of women parliamentarians. Rosemary Seninde from Uganda cited how women make up the majority of seat-holders in her country's parliament and also noted that favourability towards men must be further challenged. Lastly, Ms. Ratansi urged the establishment of networks to build capacities and find adequate solutions to gender concerns.



THE MANILA DECLARATION

DECLARATION OF THE FIFTH GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION

We, the members of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, representing parliaments from 67 countries;

GATHERED here in Manila, Philippines from 31 January to 2 February 2013 for the Fifth Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption;

AFFIRM that good governance is humanity's shared aspiration;

ACKNOWLEDGE that individual states and the international community should have the mandate and the means to bring the corrupt to justice;

RECOGNIZE that the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which came into force in 2005, is the first legally binding and internationally accepted anti-corruption instrument;

DETERMINE to arrive upon common principles and shared strategies for combatting corruption, promoting good governance and upholding the rule of law;

DO HEREBY RESOLVE THAT PARLIAMENTARIANS SHALL:

1. Promote the comprehensive implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) within their respective jurisdictions;
2. Commit to an annual local review of the UNCAC and ensure the results thereof are recognized and shared with the citizenry in an open and transparent manner;
3. Impress upon fellow parliamentarians the importance of their active participation in the implementation of the UNCAC;
4. Recognize the role of both men and women parliamentarians in implementing change in and outside parliament;
5. Establish and enforce Codes of Ethics and Conduct within their ranks;
6. Work for the institutionalization of anti-corruption mechanisms, particularly on the recovery and restitution of assets stolen from populations;
7. Seek the widespread adoption of legal instruments that obligate states to cooperate against corruption and enable the international community to prosecute perpetrators; and
8. Encourage broader participation from all segments of society in the fight against corruption.

Done in the City of Manila, Philippines, 2 February 2013.





Resolutions

United Nations Convention Against Corruption Global Task Force Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption 31 January to 2 February 2013

Understanding the deep seated harmful impact corruption has on individuals, societies and institutions, the damaging global imprints of the problem and of our responsibilities as parliamentarians to ensure transparency and accountability to fight corruption, which includes the responsibilities, set out under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption Global Task Force (GTF-UNCAC) resolves to:

- Enhance the capacity of parliamentarians to localise the UNCAC by helping adapt international standards to national needs and to play an important oversight role in the monitoring and review of the national effort to implement the UNCAC.
- Encourage parliamentarians to ensure that there is an annual review mechanism in place and that the Review Mechanism Report is tabled in parliament and shared in a transparent manner.
- Expand parliamentary representation at the Conference of States Parties and other international meetings on the UNCAC to advance popular understanding and support of the Convention as well as to emphasize the Convention's ability to advance public accountability through public representatives.
- Urge parliamentarians to work with international organizations, civil society organizations such as the UNCAC Coalition on anti-corruption initiatives.
- Develop resources by providing information, tools and guidance to parliamentarians on how to strengthen anti-corruption strategies and support the implementation and evaluation of the UNCAC at national levels.



**Parliamentary Oversight Global Task Force
Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
31 January to 2 February 2013**

Recognizing that effective, open and transparent parliamentary oversight is essential for good governance and combating corruption; and

Further recognizing that benefits from public resources, including public natural resources, should be enjoyed by citizens of that country;

The Parliamentary Oversight Global Task Force (GTF-PO) members resolve to:

- Promote and disseminate the Congressional Oversight and Anti-Corruption resources being produced by the GOPAC Secretariat in partnership with the World Bank Institute and the Office for the Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy. Where applicable, hold capacity development workshops to familiarize legislators with these tools.
- Develop a support network for newly elected parliamentarians to understand the role they can play in the international anti-corruption movement by contributing to induction training courses for newly elected legislators.
- Strengthen relations between GOPAC and other organizations and legislators that work on oversight issues.
- Strengthen relations between legislators and oversight bodies.
- Support the creation of Public Accounts Committees where they do not exist; encourage the independence of all PACs, including having opposition members as chairs.
- Consistent with the Busan process, explore the possibility of producing and providing guidelines for donor organizations to support their work within recipient countries by engaging with parliamentarians, so that the design of projects are responsive to the countries developmental needs and adequate parliamentary oversight can be exerted over donor funded programs and projects.
- Ensure that legislators have peer support to understand contracts, ensure contract transparency, and to provide template legislation for reference.
- Ensure that the task force continues to work collaboratively with related initiatives, such as Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Revenue Watch Institute, Publish What You Pay and others.
- Champion a global initiative, with the purpose of enhancing probity in the public procurement and asset disposal processes, that will result in the enactment of minimum legislative thresholds for public procurement and asset disposal processes in all countries.



Anti-Money Laundering Global Task Force
Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
31 January to 2 February 2013

Recognizing the enormous financial loss as a result of the laundering of corrupt money and the challenge of recovering stolen national assets; and its severely negative impact on poverty alleviation and political stability;

The Global Task Force on Anti-Money Laundering (GTF-AML) resolves to:

- Develop resources for diagnostic use in potential countries of focus and provide information, tools and guidance to parliamentarians on how to strengthen AML regimes.
- Aid the efforts of parliamentarians to recover stolen corrupt assets by providing those parliamentarians with peer support, guidance, access to technical information, and best practices, to enable them to set-up domestic legislation and initiatives.
- Continue to roll out the GOPAC AML Action Guide for Parliamentarians via national and regional workshops in order to enhance the capacity of the parliamentarians to strengthen their respective national anti-money laundering regimes and recover stolen assets.
- Advocate for the requirement that all financial institutions and intermediaries demand a binding legal declaration of beneficial ownership for all deposits and other financial transactions, with sanctions for non-compliance.



**Participation of Society Global Task Force
Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
31 January to 2 February 2013**

Recognizing that all members of parliament have a responsibility to represent the views of their constituents and to ensure that no group within their society is marginalized or excluded from political, socio or economic processes; and

Acknowledging that Article 13 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) calls on each State Party to take appropriate measures to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of the threat posed by corruption;

The Participation of Society Global Task Force (GTF-PoS) resolves to:

- Enhance the capacity of parliamentarians to fulfil their responsibilities to represent their constituents, engage positively with the public and work effectively with civil society, through the introduction of Participation of Society workshops and other tools such as research material, model legislation and action plans;
- Continue to build, strengthen and formalize substantive partnerships with key civil society organizations active in the fight against corruption, and to work collaboratively with interested parties at the global, regional and national levels;
- Work with civil society partners to develop model legislation aimed at providing access to information and protecting the rights of individuals who take a stand against corruption;
- Develop public communication strategies aimed at raising awareness of corruption issues, including the existence and contents of UNCAC, and diminishing public tolerance of corruption in our societies; and
- Include representatives of civil society partners as active members of the GTF-PoS.



Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct Global Task Force
Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
31 January to 2 February 2013

Recalling the unique functions performed by Parliaments and parliamentarians to represent citizens, vote on laws, oversee and hold the executive to account, position them to have great potential in preventing and fighting corruption;

Observing that in order to maintain their integrity and gain the necessary level of public trust in discharging these important public interest functions, parliamentarians should uphold and demonstrate high standards of ethics and conduct;

Recognizing that effective parliamentary systems of ethics and conduct can deter and sanction specific cases of unethical behaviour by parliamentarians in the broader context of preventing and fighting corruption;

Recognizing also that effective systems of ethics and conduct enhance the public's level of trust in the democratic political system in general, and in parliaments and their members in particular, which is greatly influenced by perceived and real corruption;

Noting that Article 8 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, provides for the development of 'Codes of Conduct for Public Officials';

Having reviewed the activities performed by the Global Task Force on Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct ("GTF-PEC"), particularly its production and publication, in many languages, of a Handbook of Parliamentary Systems of Ethics and Conduct ("the Handbook");

Now therefore, the GTF-PEC resolves to:

- Note with appreciation the drafting and publication by the GTF-PEC of a Handbook on Parliamentary systems of Ethics and Conduct.
- Urge GOPAC members to disseminate it widely and implement its recommendations at global, regional and domestic levels to develop effective and comprehensive systems of ethics and conduct.
- Maintain the GTF-PEC to implement its strategy and action plan on global, regional and domestic levels to:
 - Develop knowledge and materials on Parliamentary systems of ethics and conduct.
 - Build capacity of parliamentarians to develop, enact and implement systems of ethics and conduct consistent with their respective political and cultural contexts, at the same time, adhering to fundamental international standards.
 - Develop GTF-PEC capacity, partnerships and organizational effectiveness.



Women in Parliament Network
Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
31 January to 2 February 2013

Recognizing that men and women bring different perspectives to many socio, economic and political issues, and that the political participation of women is a necessary requirement for good governance; and

Acknowledging that, while progress has been made in increasing the number of women in decision-making positions, the number of female legislators is still not reflective of the gender balance of our global society;

The GOPAC Women in Parliament Network (WPN) resolves to:

- Provide a network of support, including workshops and other activities, aimed at enhancing the capacity for women parliamentarians to participate actively in the fight against corruption;
- Encourage other women's caucuses in parliaments to become more engaged on issues of corruption;
- Work with partners such as the UN, the Inter Parliamentary Union, Transparency International and academic institutions to share existing material and to conduct additional research on the impact of corruption on women; and
- Examine case studies highlighting barriers and incentives to female participation in the political process and disseminate lessons learned.

