



TERMS OF REFERENCE
Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
Researcher - State of Nations 2013: Timor Leste

Background:

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption, adopted in 2003, is a landmark convention signed by over 160 countries. It is the most comprehensive international instrument in the fight against corruption. The Convention's seventy-one articles provide common standards for national strategies in five main areas: prevention; criminalization; international cooperation; asset recovery; and technical assistance.

The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), oversees the Convention and manages the Conference of States Parties (CoSP) to the UNCAC. At the Third Session of the CoSP in 2009, states agreed to a review mechanism to monitor the Convention's implementation in individual nations. All states parties were required to conduct self-assessments to evaluate how they are meeting their Convention obligations. The reviews aim to identify good practices and challenges in national anti-corruption laws and procedures.

The signatories to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) are required to align their policies and legislation on the fight against corruption with the measures prescribed in the Convention. A mechanism for 'peer review' has been set up to monitor progress which includes a "checklist". This has been designed to assist signatories to gather information on the implementation of the Convention and to report on progress in this area.

The State of Nations Program

The central objective of the GOPAC State of Nations Program is to identify opportunities and challenges facing parliamentarians who are working to fight corruption in their respective countries. This data will provide GOPAC with accurate information on how we can better assist parliamentarians to improve the implementation of anti-corruption legislation, mechanisms and strategies vis-à-vis the UNCAC. It will highlight ongoing improvement initiatives in this area as well as pinpoint what type of capacity building support parliamentarians require.

The completion of this survey will give GOPAC a country report and provides an opportunity to engage parliamentarians, civil society and others to strengthen the coalition to combat corruption. It will also result in analysis and recommendations that will strengthen any proposal for support for the work of the National Chapter, as well as supply important information for the development of Regional Chapter Plans and the Global Plan for parliamentarians to fight corruption.

Timor Leste

The GOPAC Timor Leste Chapter successfully held a national workshop in March 2012 to complete the State of Nations survey. Over two days, 24 MPs organized themselves in working groups engaging in frank discussions about the status of anti-corruption efforts in their country. The Chapter came out with 18 concrete recommendations (see Annex A).

Objectives

GOPAC aims to carry out a complete audit of Timor Leste’s current anti-corruption credentials, identify and start to address gaps through capacity building activities, and create a road-map of legislative action required. The audit will build upon the results of the State of Nations workshop conducted in March 2012 which measured Timor Leste’s compliance with the UNCAC and create a State of the Nations report, taking into account lessons learned from a pilot process and trial report conducted in Morocco in 2012. On completion of the report, GOPAC will use the expertise of our Global Task Forces on Anti-Money Laundering; Parliamentary Oversight; Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct; Participation of Society and UN Convention Against Corruption to build capacity through a series of workshops and resource tools for Timor Leste. The final stage will be to draw on both the State of Nations Report and the outcomes of the workshops to design a detailed road-map for the Timor Leste National Chapter to plan future activities, including model legislation, required to address any remaining gaps of the UNCAC.

The State of Nations report will help the nation’s legislators develop a comprehensive parliamentary plan to prevent corruption and ensure that implementation of the UNCAC remains a national priority. The report also provides a useful platform for legislators to share their experiences; to build national, regional, and international coalitions to implement reforms; and to identify practical and successful ways to fight corruption.

The report will profile the Timor Leste national chapter, and will discuss and describe the country’s successes and challenges in the fight against corruption. This report will also analyze and recommend how to move the national anti-corruption agenda forward.

Expected Outputs

1. Roundtable meeting with National Chapter members to:
 - a. Validate recommendations which were drafted at 2012 UNCAC workshop
 - b. Brief members on State of Nations project
2. Table of Contents – State of Nations 2013: Timor Leste to be approved by GOPAC Timor Leste Chapter and GoPAC Global Secretariat
3. State of Nations 2013: Timor Leste. Draft a detailed report of the state of anti-corruption in Timor Leste which will include a brief history of national anti-corruption initiatives, review of current anti-corruption legislation and capacity gaps vis-à-vis the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and within this national framework of action. The report should include, but not be limited to, sections on the UNCAC, Parliamentary Oversight, Parliamentary, Ethics and Conduct, Participation of Society and Anti-Money Laundering (Chapter II of the UNCAC). The report will include a roadmap for future action.

Timelines

Activity	Date
Verification Meeting w/ National Chapter	May 15, 2013
Table of Contents	May 31, 2013
Workshop on Parliamentary, Ethics and Conduct	June, 2013
1 st Draft of State of Nations 2013: Timor Leste	August 1, 2013
Comments received by GoPAC Secretariat & GOPAC National Chapter	August 15, 2013
Final Draft Submitted to GoPAC as approved by National Chapter of Timor Leste	August 30, 2013

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Coordinating 1 day roundtable meeting with Timor Leste National Chapter; validating recommendations developed in March 2012; brief Chapter on project deliverables and further elaborate an action plan
- Developing Annotated Table of Contents with National Chapter
- Providing logistical support to run national workshop on Parliamentary, Ethics and Conduct
- Drafting State of Nations 2013: Timor Leste report in consultation with GOPAC National Chapter and the Global GOPAC Secretariat. This should include a detailed roadmap on complying with the UNCAC
- Working with Global Task Force Advisors at GoPAC on drafting and delivery of report
- Submitting monthly progress reports to GOPAC National Chapter and GOPAC Global Secretariat
- Working with National Chapter to prepare roadmap of future activities designed to capitalize on project outcomes

WORKING CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENT

The position is nationally recruited (Timor Leste citizen), based in Dili

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REQUIRED

- Master's Degree in International Relations, Development studies with a focus on governance
- A minimum of three years research experience
- Strong writing skills
- Capacity to work independently and as a team member
- Advanced skills in Microsoft Project, Excel, Outlook and Word
- Fluency in English and at least one of Timor Leste's other official languages (Portuguese and/or Tetum)
- Adherence to the GOPAC's core mission and values

Reporting Guidelines

The Researcher will report to the GOPAC Global Task Force Advisor (UNCAC) and the National Chapter Executive Director.

Deadline: 7 May 2013

Please submit resume, cover letter, including salary expectations, and reference State of Nations 2013 to info@gopacnetwork.org.

ANNEX A

GOPAC/UNDP UNCAC Workshop, Timor Leste, March 28-29, 2012 Recommendations

UNCAC Implementation

1. Need to provide knowledge and training on UNCAC to Parliamentarians.
2. Need to develop national strategy for combating corruption that involve/ engage also parliamentarians.
3. Mechanism on the UNCAC review must strengthen the role of parliamentarians.
4. Ensure the implementation of regulation on the government response.

Financial Oversight

5. Increase funding to recruit good and qualified staff to conduct investigation.
6. Committee C (Economy, Finance and Anti-Corruption) must engage more actively and meaningfully in ensuring/overseeing the implementation of its recommendations to the government.
7. Parliament's documents need to be more accessible to the public.
8. Must strengthen the national legal framework (ie. draft/approve new laws).
9. Implementation on the approved laws needs to be strengthened.
10. Must produce a law that compels members of government and public administration to respond to the request of clarification by the parliament following submission of government reports.
11. Government must establish an unit of financial information *urgently*.
12. Establish Specialized Committee on public account and extractives and petroleum's resources (sub-committee that established under the Committee C).

Standards of Conduct

13. Need more specific regulation on gratifications that can contribute to/fuel corruption (example: gifts, support for travelling etc.)
14. Members of parliament must improve the implementation of their internal regime (Standing Orders?)
15. Need a law on asset declaration for all state institutions/ entities.
16. Need to have a regulation on conflict of interest.
17. Improve law and financial management of the parliament- need transparency.