



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

GOPAC National Chapter Development Package

Table of contents

Development Package	
Introduction	1
Section A: Terms of Reference	2
Section B: Key Documents	6
Section C: Global Secretariat Contact Information and Questionnaire	24

INTRODUCTION

Strong, effective National Chapters with a clear purpose and plan are the foundation from which the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC) can deliver both short term and long term results. National Chapters are expected to develop an anti-corruption agenda and implement the chosen priorities.

Successful National Chapters are built on three pillars:

- a. Building coalitions among engaged parliamentarians to provide peer support to members;
- b. Providing information and training through workshops, as well as resources and tools designed specifically for parliamentarians to fight corruption; and
- c. Establishing anti-corruption agendas including introduction of legislation and improving oversight for parliamentarians. Using the United Nations Convention Against Corruption follow-up mechanisms with an emphasis on communication and continued assistance. Regular updates and information exchange, as well as sharing of best practices contribute to the development of strong, active chapters.

This document provides all information related to developing a GOPAC National Chapter and maintaining a successful chapter. With that aim, this document has the following structure:

a. Section A

Gives an introduction to GOPAC National Chapters and their purpose. Also included in this section are the Terms of Reference for establishing a National Chapter.

b. Section B

Contains the key documents related to the development of National Chapters.

c. Section C

Contains information on the GOPAC Global Secretariat. In this section we also include a questionnaire to be filled out by the National Chapters Chairs where they can tell us about their experience in forming a chapter in their country.

SECTION A TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. What are GOPAC National Chapters

A National Chapter is a registered non-profit organisation with the main objective of bringing together parliamentarians and others within the country to combat corruption. That includes anti-money laundering and promotion of transparency and accountability in order to ensure high standards of integrity in public transactions. National Chapters collaborate with other National Chapters of GOPAC within the Regional Chapter and globally.

GOPAC's National Chapters hold a special position in helping individual members of parliament within their own countries to combat corruption. National Chapters are particularly effective in implementing change and producing results due to their ability to focus on specific areas of concern. Activities within GOPAC's National Chapters have included: introducing bills in the legislature related to fighting corruption and ensuring they are passed and implemented by the government of the day; obtaining significant public visibility and political significance; serving as a professional development support for its members; and engaging civil society in anti-corruption efforts.

2. Purpose

The successful fight against corruption requires engaged and well-informed parliamentarians working together (in a parliament) as a critical mass with the necessary knowledge and tools, and a clear plan of action. To this end, two dynamics are key:

- a. engaged GOPAC members (champions)
- b. an effective and active GOPAC National Chapter (peer support)

The effectiveness of these two dynamics is enhanced if National Chapters are active and supported within a functioning Regional Chapter. This provides a wider realm of peer support and advice.

3. Structure

The National Chapter is composed of National Chapter members and an Executive Committee consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. A National Chapter can also establish a Secretariat if required and funding is available.

The National Chapter is supported by the GOPAC Global Executive Committee, the Global Secretariat and a Regional Chapter if one exists.

4. Membership

Full membership shall be available to legislators and former legislators at the national and sub national level, as well as legislators who have been denied their right to take office. The Regional Chapter has the right to reject a membership application if deemed not to be in GOPAC's interest.

Also, upon application, the following shall be members with observer status: institutions, individual donors, NGOs, Supreme Audit Institutions, and other organizations that support similar objectives as the National Chapter or provide funding for its activities.

5. Objectives

The objectives of a National Chapter of GOPAC are:

- a. To develop capacity of parliamentarians within the country to oversee the activities of the government and other public institutions thereby making them more accountable.
- b. To promote measures within the parliament aimed at dealing effectively with corruption and to raise awareness on the issues of corruption at all levels of society.
- c. To share and inform on lessons learned and best practices on anti-corruption measures.
- d. To work with national and regional bodies in the mobilization of resources for anti-corruption programs, including:
 - i. Sponsoring anti-corruption workshops for its members on Global Task Force agendas;
 - ii. Supporting the activities of National Chapters and similar organizations within the Regional Chapter and the global organisation;
 - iii. Contributing to online resources, newsletters, social media, etc.;
 - iv. Liaising and cooperating with international organisations, parliamentary institutions, civil society, and other organisations on all matters aimed at improving governance, transparency and accountability;
 - v. Conducting research and disseminating information on best practices; and
 - vi. Promoting the causes of members in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the organization.

- e. To advocate for the inclusion of anti-corruption measures in all government programs and work for the improvement of the capacities of national and regional institutions to deal effectively with corruption.
- f. To promote the rule of law and accountability of state institutions.
- g. To fulfill the objectives of GOPAC within the country for the establishment of standards of conduct designed to promote transparency, accountability and good governance.
- h. To do all other things that are incidental or conducive to supporting and promoting the realisation of any of these objects, including the capacity to raise money from public or private sources.

Based on a needs analysis each National Chapter is encouraged to establish its own objectives within these criteria, adopt its own agenda and develop a work plan.

6. Roles & Responsibilities

In its fight against corruption, a National Chapter starts by adopting the agendas of two Global Task Forces as the focus of work for the National Chapter. Later the National Chapter will develop a strategy that is articulated in a national plan of action, monitor national developments and encourage the emergence of a broad alliance against corruption.

The National Chapters and all members have the responsibility to promote legislation to strengthen society and uphold transparency and accountability by:

- a. Building the commitment and capacity of parliament to exercise accountability particularly in relation to financial matters;
- b. Sharing information, lessons learned and best practices;
- c. Undertaking projects to reduce corruption and promote good governance;
- d. Cooperating with International financial institutions and organizations in civil society with shared objectives;
- e. Recognizing that the rule of law is paramount in the development of a healthy, free and productive society; and
- f. Promoting legislation that combats corruption within the country.

If a National Chapter has adopted a GOPAC Global Task Force (GTF) as part of its agenda, it will:

- a. Organize workshops (two per year) to be led by the Regional Global Task Force member (perhaps with experts in attendance);

- b. Contact the GOPAC Global Secretariat for organisational help and for any model legislation;
- c. Develop a plan for writing the legislation (or regulations) using government, the parliamentary library or a parliamentary committee to addresses the weaknesses identified by the workshop. The National Chapter could also considered private resources to write the legislation (or regulations);
- d. Introduce the legislation in parliament; and
- e. Move it through the legislative process towards promulgation.

National chapters are also highly encouraged to develop a training strategy and a handbook on the GTF subject matter.

7. Support Services Provided by GOPAC and GOPAC Global Secretariat

The GOPAC Global Secretariat is the headquarters of the organization and as such performs numerous functions with regards to membership, finances, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

The Global Secretariat provides support and assistance to the National and Regional Chapters to ensure their success. GOPAC's programming model uses Global Task Forces (GTFs) to promote agendas. The GTFs are global committees of GOPAC parliamentarians representing each region of the world who champion individual agendas. The GOPAC Executive Committee and Global Secretariat support GTFs with handbooks, workshops and capacity building among parliamentarians worldwide. Through its GTFs GOPAC can support the introduction of legislative and oversight changes in national parliaments to control corruption, promote good governance and hold the Executive (government) more accountable to the people.

In order for this relationship to flourish the Global Secretariat encourages regular communication with National Chapters to support them in developing future focus, as well as to use existing opportunities for sharing best practices/capacity building.

8. Funding

GOPAC chapters are self-governing and financially independent. Chapters are encouraged to raise funds to carry out their activities and deliver results according to their adopted work plan.

SECTION B KEY DOCUMENTS

This section includes the following documents:

1. Seven steps to create a National Chapter of GOPAC
2. Membership form
3. Model constitution of a National Chapter
4. Case study: GOPAC National Chapter formation

Seven Steps to Creating a National Chapter of GOPAC

1. Three or four parliamentarians representing all or most parties in parliament decide that it would be beneficial to create a chapter of GOPAC within their parliament. They become the Interim Steering Committee.
2. They advise the Regional Chapter and GOPAC Global Secretariat in Ottawa (by providing names and contact information of members) that they are in existence. They continue to maintain regular communications with both to ensure their success as well as to stay informed of GOPAC initiatives.
3. Each member of the Steering Committee commit to finding four or five more parliamentarians to participate. This brings the number to around twenty.
4. The twenty or so parliamentarians hold a meeting and constitute themselves as the founding members and adopt the constitution for a National Chapter.
5. They elect an Executive Committee in accordance with the constitution.
6. They should try to identify an NGO that is willing to act as the Secretariat of the Chapter (e.g. Transparency International). They also reach out to the local offices of the official donor community and to civil society. They inform the Speaker and political parties of their existence as a non-partisan entity.
7. They adopt a work plan from the Global Task Forces (GTFs) or from a local agenda in consultation with local representatives of donor organisations, civil society and the Regional Secretariat or Global Secretariat.

Seven Steps to Creating a National Chapter of GOPAC



GOPAC Application Form

Prefix: Hon. Sen. Mrs. Mr. Dr. Other:						
Last Name:						
First Name:			Middle Name:			
Present Occupation:			Organization:			
Email 1:			Email 2:			
Phone 1:			Phone 2:			
Skype Username:						
Mailing Address:						
Street:						
			City:			
State:		Zip / Postal Code:		Country:		
Preferred language of correspondence:		English	French	Spanish	Arabic	
Other Languages:						
Gender: Male		Female				
Current Legislator		Former Legislator		Neither – Requesting Observer Status		
Political Party Affiliation:						
Areas of Expertise:						
 Areas of Interest:						
Yes, I would like to be included in the GOPAC mailing list.						
Your signature below indicates your desire to become a member of GOPAC, your consent that your name will be listed on GOPAC’s website as a member as well as your acceptance of GOPAC’s code of conduct.						
<u>Code of Conduct:</u>						
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All members shall behave and conduct their affairs in a manner consistent with the values that GOPAC promotes and defends, as well as strive to uphold the integrity of those values. 2. A member must avoid actual and perceived conflicts of interest. 3. A member must report to the organization all actual and perceived conflicts of interest as soon as the member becomes aware of any circumstances that give rise to an actual or perceived conflict of interest. 4. The evaluation of a breach of the values of the organization will be made by the Board of Directors who shall have full authority to decide on the appropriate sanction that may be imposed in any given case. 						
_____ Signature			_____ Date			
<u>You may submit the form by email to:</u> info@gopacnetwork.org						
Disclaimer: The information provided on this form will be used by GOPAC only. GOPAC will not share your contact information with a third party without your consent.						

MODEL CONSTITUTION OF A NATIONAL CHAPTER

The Preamble

- RECOGNIZING: The supremacy of parliament as the institution to whom a government is answerable and accountable.
- AWARE: That corruption poses a grave danger to the well-being of people and to the development of their society.
- ALARMED: That corruption diverts scarce resources from basic human needs and destroys confidence in the integrity of our institutions.
- CONCERNED: That it is essential that we develop healthy, balanced relations between the state, civil society and the marketplace and that parliament can be strengthened as effective institution of accountability in approving the policies and actions of government.
- ACKNOWLEDGING: That corruption can best be controlled by strengthening systems of accountability, transparency and public participation in the governance process.
- REALIZING: The great value of parliamentarians coming together to create a proactive strategy, to share information, experience and lessons learned, and to develop initiatives to strengthen their parliament in the fight against corruption.
- REITERATING: Our commitment to promote legislation to strengthen society and uphold transparency and accountability by:
- Building the commitment and capacity of parliament to exercise accountability with particular relation to financial matters;
 - Sharing information lessons learned and best practices;
 - Undertaking projects to reduce corruption and promote good governance;
 - Cooperating with international financial institutions and organizations in civil society with shared objectives; and
 - Recognizing that the rule of law is paramount in the development of a healthy, free and productive society.

Do hereby resolve to form a National Chapter for parliamentarians against corruption as a tool for strengthening parliament's effectiveness as the first line in the fight against corruption.

ARTICLE 1 NAME

The name of the National Chapter of the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC) shall be GOPAC-[country name] registered under the laws of

ARTICLE 2 REGISTERED OFFICE

The registered office ofshall be situated at

ARTICLE 3 NATURE AND OBJECTS OF THE NATIONAL CHAPTER

The National Chapter agrees to collaborate with other National Chapters of GOPAC within the Regional Chapter known as Regional Chapter of GOPAC.

1. The National Chapter is a non-profit organisation and must operate in a democratic and transparent manner. Its main objective is to bring together parliamentarians, former parliamentarians and others within the country to combat corruption and promote transparency and accountability in order to ensure high standards of integrity in public transactions.
2. The National Chapter is non-partisan and must be open to persons of both genders and all faiths.
3. The National Chapter's constitution shall not depart from the aims and objectives or be inconsistent with GOPAC's constitution.

The objects for which the National Chapter of GOPAC is established are:

1. To fulfill the objectives of GOPAC within the country for the establishment of standards of conduct designed to promote transparency, accountability and good governance;
2. To develop a Chapter strategy, monitor national developments and encourage the emergence of a broad alliance within the country against corruption.
3. To promote the rule of law and the accountability of state institutions;
4. To develop capacity in parliaments and parliamentarians within the country to oversee the activities of the government and other public institutions thereby making them more accountable;
5. To foster and facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge, best practice and experience among its members on anti-corruption measures;
6. To encourage parliament and parliamentarians to develop and enact legislation that promotes good governance, transparency and accountability;

7. To promote measures aimed at dealing effectively with corruption and to raise general awareness on the issue of corruption at all levels of society;
8. To inform parliamentarians and policy makers on the existence, nature and ways of combating corruption;
9. To advocate for the inclusion of anti-corruption measures in all government programs and work for the improvement of the capacities of national and regional institutions to deal effectively with corruption;
10. To work with national and regional bodies in the mobilisation of resources for anti-corruption programs, including:
 - Supporting the activities of other National Chapters and similar organizations within the Regional Chapter and GOPAC;
 - Sharing information through the use of websites, e-mail and other services;
 - Sponsoring anti-corruption workshops;
 - Liaising with and working in co-operation with international organisations, parliamentary institutions, civil society, and other organisations on all matters aimed at improving governance, transparency and accountability;
 - Conducting research and disseminating information on best practices; and
 - Promoting the causes of members in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the organization.
11. To do all other things as are incidental or conducive to supporting and promoting the realisation of any of these objects, including the capacity to raise money from public or private sources.

ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP

1. Full membership shall be available to the following, upon application and payment of an annual subscription:
 - Legislators and former legislators; and
 - Legislators who have been denied their right to take office.
2. The following upon application shall be members with observer status: institutions; individual donors, NGOs, Supreme Audit Institution and other organizations that support similar objectives as this organization or provide funding for its activities.
3. The annual subscription fee is to be determined by the Global Board of Directors and shall cover the period from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

4. Membership shall be subjected to the approval of the Board of Directors of the Regional Chapter.
5. Full membership in a National Chapter also includes membership in the Regional Chapter and in GOPAC.

ARTICLE 5 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership shall terminate upon death, removal, or voluntary withdrawal from the organisation.
2. A member must give the Executive Committee written notice of his/her decision to withdraw from the organization.
3. A member may be suspended or removed from the register of members by a decision of the Regional Board of Directors if a member is more than one year in arrears of subscription payment OR by the GOPAC Global Board of Directors for cause as determined by the Global Board of Directors.
4. A member who has been suspended or removed from the register may appeal his/her suspension or removal to the Global Board of Directors within three months of the date of the decision of the Regional Board. The Global Board of Directors will set up a special committee to hear arguments and render a decision that is binding on all parties.

ARTICLE 6 CODE OF CONDUCT

1. All members shall behave and conduct their affairs in a manner consistent with the values that the National Chapter, Regional Chapter and GOPAC promote and defend, as well as strive to uphold the integrity of those values.
2. A member must avoid actual and perceived conflicts of interest.
3. A member must report to the Executive Committee of the Regional Chapter and to the GOPAC Global Secretariat all actual and perceived conflicts of interest as soon as the member becomes aware of any circumstances which may give rise to an allegation of a conflict of interest.
4. The evaluation of a breach of the values of the organization will be made by the GOPAC Global Board of Directors in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Regional Chapter, who shall have full authority to decide on the appropriate sanction that may be imposed in any given case.

ARTICLE 7: STRUCTURE

1. The National Chapter is composed of National Chapter members and shall have an Executive Committee consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. A National Chapter can also establish a Secretariat if required and funding is available.
2. The National Chapter shall be supported by the GOPAC Global Executive Committee, the Global Secretariat and a Regional Chapter if one exists.

ARTICLE 8: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1.
 - a) The Executive Committee is the administrative organ of the Chapter and shall be comprised of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer elected from the current membership.
 - b) The term of office of a member of the Executive shall expire at the next annual general meeting of the Chapter and not exceed a period of two years.
 - c) The Chair cannot serve in the same post for more than two terms and at the end of that term must be replaced by another member.
2. The Executive Committee is responsible for all matters pertaining to the National Chapter, except where a responsibility or task has been expressly vested in another organ.
3. In particular it shall have the following functions:
 - a) To receive all applications for membership or affiliation to the organization;
 - b) To propose to the Regional Chapter and the Global Secretariat the annual work program and budget of the National Chapter;
 - c) To organise a calendar of activities in consultation with the Regional Chapter and the Global Secretariat;
 - d) To inform the Regional Chapter and the Global Secretariat about the activities of the National Chapter through reports;
 - e) To act as the official communication organ of the National Chapter;
 - f) To facilitate and promote communication between members;
 - g) To enter into contracts on behalf of the National Chapter; and
 - h) To borrow, raise, receive and spend funds for the objects and purposes of the organisation.

4. The borrowing powers of the Executive Committee cannot be exercised unless:
 - a) Prior approval has been obtained from the membership at a special meeting called with notice to discuss same;
 - b) The source of borrowed funds is the Regional Chapter or GOPAC;
 - c) Prior approval has been received from the GOPAC Executive Committee; and
 - d) The loan is secured with the organization's funds or assets.
5. The Executive Committee may delegate any of its powers or duties (except borrowing powers) to its own sub-committee.
6. A quorum for the Executive Committee shall be three.
7. The manner and timing of meetings are to be decided by the Chair. The Secretary at the request of the chair shall call meetings. In the absence of the Chair, the Executive Committee shall appoint one of its members to chair a meeting.
8. Decisions are made by majority vote and each member is entitled to one vote. In the event of there being no majority, the chair or his substitute has a casting vote.
9. Minutes will be kept of meetings and decisions made which must be signed by the Chair and Secretary.

ARTICLE 9: SECRETARY/SECRETARIAT

1. The following shall be the function of the Secretary/Secretariat:
 - a) To be the office of the National Chapter;
 - b) To keep records of membership and report memberships to the Regional Chapter and the Global Secretariat;
 - c) To promote new membership and affiliations;
 - d) To co-ordinate and facilitate the activities of the National Chapter. In particular, to provide a supporting role to the Executive Committee;
 - e) To collect and disseminate information concerning the National Chapter and its members;

- f) Ensure that the National Chapter’s membership is well informed of its programs and activities;
- f) To maintain liaison and co-ordinate activities between the National Chapters in the region, the Global Secretariat, and other groups or institutions;
- g) To co-ordinate the National Chapter’s representation at conferences; and
- h) The Treasurer/Secretary shall handle finances and keep all records and archives of the National Chapter.

ARTICLE 10: THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE

- 3. The National Chapter shall collaborate with the Regional Chapter and with GOPAC to organize a Global Conference if it is to be held in the country, to which observers and all national, regional and global members shall be invited.
- 2. The expenditure for staging the conference shall be the joint responsibility of GOPAC, the host Regional and National Chapters, and the Parliament of the host country.
- 3. The date and place of each conference shall be determined by the GOPAC Global Board of Directors in consultation with the Regional Chapters and any affected National Chapters.

ARTICLE 11 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 1. Monies are to be used for the fulfilment of the National Chapter objectives and to maintain it as an autonomous entity.
- 2. Sources of finance shall include the following:
 - a) Fund raising activities;
 - b) Donations and grants;
 - c) Membership fees and subscriptions as established by the Global Board of Directors;
 - d) Contributions, including those from governments, government agencies, corporations or other business entities, international organisations, individuals and other organisations; and
 - e) Any other sources determined to be appropriate by the Board of Directors of the Regional Chapter of GOPAC.

ARTICLE 12 BANK ACCOUNT

1. A National Chapter may maintain its own bank account.
2. The Executive Committee shall by a general resolution keep a bank account in a financial institution in the country of the chapter and all financial transaction shall be carried out in the name of the National Chapter.
3. All cheques of the National Chapter shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other member of the Executive Committee designated as a signing officer.

ARTICLE 13 ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

1. The Executive Committee shall prepare a budget and keep books of accounts which are to be audited annually.
2. Budgets and work plans shall be presented to a meeting of the Executive Committee to be approved annually.
3. The National Chapter shall prepare an annual report showing work accomplished, and the amounts and sources of funding received and spent in the fiscal year.

ARTICLE 14 AMENDMENTS AND REPEAL OF ARTICLES

1. This constitution may be modified, enlarged, abridged or supplemented by a special resolution passed and supported by two-thirds majority of members present voting at a national meeting or a special meeting of members called by the Executive Committee.
2. Any member proposing to amend the constitution shall submit the proposal in writing to the Executive Committee at least one month before the general or special meeting.
3. The Executive Committee shall communicate all such proposals to all members and the Global Secretariat in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the meeting or the special meeting.
4. All changes adopted in accordance with Article 14.1 shall be included in an amended constitution.

ARTICLE 15 DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

1. A decision to dissolve a National Chapter requires a resolution passed at a special meeting called by the Executive and supported by three quarters of the votes of active members present in person or by proxy.

2. The decision by a National Chapter to dissolve must be presented to the Board of Directors of the Regional Chapter and the Global Secretariat within thirty days and be accepted by both entities before the decision can be considered final.
3. In the event that the National Chapter is dissolved or disbanded, its assets and funds shall be transferred to GOPAC.

ARTICLE 16

The following words shall bear meaning given below:

- “Parliamentarian” means a member elected or appointed to serve in a parliament or in a Congress or Legislative Assembly
- “Chair” means chairperson

Case Study: GOPAC National Chapter Formation

Note from the GOPAC Global Secretariat:

This document is a starting point for engaging other parliamentarians to share their experiences and we look forward to hearing from you so that that the lessons learned can continue to be documented and shared. In particular, we would like to improve our understanding of the different models that are being used for National Chapter Secretariats and what is working and what is not.

A second area of discussion is how Chapters are funding their work. To what extent are National Chapters finding the support they need for financial and technical assistance and for events? How can Chapters ensure their financial and membership sustainability?

Each GOPAC National Chapter is unique but some of the following points may be helpful to those parliamentarians who are just starting. If you have comments or would like to suggest changes please direct these to the GOPAC Global Secretariat via e-mail info@gopacnetwork.com.

GOPAC National Chapter Formation and Oversight Some Steps to Consider Based on Zimbabwean Experiences

by Honourable Willias Madzimore, MP, Zimbabwe APNAC

STEPS

1. **Establish a Steering Committee or an Interim Executive Committee:** The responsibility of the contact person or persons in a parliament is to come up with a Chapter of GOPAC that will be responsible for communicating the reasons for the creation of the Chapter and its objectives. It will be the responsibility of the Chapter to mobilise members and establish a Secretariat that will ensure continuity.
2. **Inform Speaker(s):** Where appropriate inform the Speaker or Speakers where there is a bicameral legislature. It is essential at the initial stages that the Speaker appreciates the gravity of corruption and the concerns of the members thereto. An important early message is that GOPAC Chapters do not go after individuals who are corrupt in parliament and the executive. The focus of the work is on preventing corruption through improved governance, transparency and oversight. The support of the Speaker will always be valuable to the GOPAC

programmes and activities. Therefore, informing the Speaker may not be optional after all.

3. **Inform Political Parties:** The message here is that GOPAC is non-partisan. Furthermore parliamentary oversight works best in non-partisan approaches where the focus is on good results for citizens, not party politics. The political buy in is crucial for GOPAC members to navigate the treacherous pitfalls of political machinations and mudslinging. The whipping system has always prohibited members from effectively executing their oversight role, let alone the fight against corruption.
4. **Develop a Code of Conduct:** The English adage that “you send a thief to catch a thief” does not apply to the fight against corruption. The consequence of fighting corruption and being exposed are too great for corrupt individuals to be involved. The ideal situation is to have morally upright members of parliament join GOPAC. In view of the foregoing, a code of conduct to which members will subscribe should be put in place as quickly as possible. The underpinning principles of GOPAC are: selflessness, integrity, transparency, honest, accountability leadership and objectivity.¹
5. **Membership:** To quote Senator Ricardo Garcia Cervantes of Mexico, GOPAC is open to all but not all will be asked to join. Members should be invited to ensure that they are not corrupt and have leadership abilities. In African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) only current parliamentarians can be members of the Chapter. In other countries both current and former parliamentarians are invited – this is a Regional or National Chapter decision to be made. Also in some countries members pay fees and in others they do not, again a Chapter decision. However, a token fee may be required to ensure that members have a sense of belonging and have a common vision in the growth and survival of the Chapter.

In terms of membership, Senator Cervantes, based on a UK document, outlined the following qualities in our meeting in Paraguay:

- **Selflessness** - Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends. GOPAC is a not-for-profit organization. Therefore, no payment should be expected for any services rendered.

¹ There is a [GOPAC handbook for Parliamentarians on ethics and conduct](#) that was done in partnership between GTF-PEC and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

- **Integrity** - Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties. Members of GOPAC are not an exception.
 - **Objectivity** - In carrying out the oversight role, including overseeing public appointments by the Executive, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
 - **Accountability** - Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
 - **Openness** - Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
 - **Honesty** - Holders of public office including GOPAC members, have a duty to declare their assets and any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
 - **Leadership** - Holders of public office should promote and support these principles through leadership by example.
6. **Engage Civil Society Organizations.** In some cases civil society organizations have acted or continue to do so as the Secretariat for the National Chapter. If donor funds are to be received, there needs to be a legal entity involved. In some cases however, the civil society organizations may not have the same views as the Chapter members and although there may also be other sensitivities it is still important to engage likeminded groups and work together where possible. On a broader basis, the GOPAC Global Secretariat suggests that each Chapter develop a **Partnership Strategy**, not only for funding purposes but also for technical expertise to support the Chapter work. The range of options is illustrated in the [Declaration](#) from the Forum of Parliamentarians in Doha November 2009 where the theme was *Working with Others*.
7. **Inform the Media.** It is very important that the media understand the GOPAC approach (preventing corruption, non-partisan and the other messages provided above). In some countries such as the Arab region, the media play an important role as a driver of anti-corruption. In other societies, such as African

ones, the civil societies may be a very important factor in creating political demand for implementing the United Nations Convention Against Corruption as a way of life.

8. **Develop Program.** GOPAC’s Global Monitoring Program is an important step in developing a comprehensive global plan for strengthening parliamentary performance in preventing corruption and in ensuring that the implementation of UNCAC remains a national priority in countries that have signed this convention. It serves as an annual review process that allows GOPAC to assess work done by the National Chapters and determine areas for improvement. As part of the Global Monitoring Program, National Chapters complete the Global Monitoring Survey. The survey can be used as a framework for initial discussions to engage media and civil society and develop a more precise work plan for the Chapter.

The report that results from the survey can help members understand what is expected and help in identifying where additional documents and information for the members, as well as events are needed. The most important point however is that the program is used to **develop political coalitions**.

To quote the founder of GOPAC, the Honourable John Williams “the one with the biggest political coalition wins.” GOPAC is a network of like parliamentarians who can build these coalitions and create forward motion for change. What has made some Chapters grow faster than others is the level of activities within and outside parliament. It is the responsibility of the Chapter leadership to continuously come up with long- and short-term programmes. This keeps cohesion and a sense of purpose among members. At any given time, a Chapter must have a theme that becomes the rallying point.

9. **Building capacity.** Corrupt activities in a country’s economic, political and social phase have gone unnoticed due to a lack of capacity of Members of Parliament. GOPAC members must have the capacity so that they can understand the different types of corruption. Workshops and conferences can be used to develop this capacity. Every member must be aware of available tools to fight corruption. The available legislation meant to fight corruption must be understood by the members of GOPAC. Each member can play an important role in bringing information back to the Chapter deliberations. For example, members could attend various committee meetings and be the ‘eyes and ears’ of the Chapter to identify corruption issues that need to be addressed. Networking of members of GOPAC is essential and must be used to develop the same.
10. **Report.** It is important that Chapters document their achievements, identify strengths and weaknesses of parliamentary performance in their country (there is a separate process to assess the government’s performance – the Review

Mechanism for States Parties for the UNCAC). The reporting framework for GOPAC Chapters is the Global Monitoring Survey. Each National Chapter is now expected to complete this survey. It is the formal mechanism for GOPAC reporting.

Paraguay, July 2010

Global Task Force on Parliamentary Oversight Meeting

Honourable Willias Madzimure (MP)

Chairperson APNAC, Zimbabwe Chapter and Member of GOPAC

Member GOPAC Global Task Force on Parliamentary Oversight

SECTION C GLOBAL SECRETARIAT CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on developing a GOPAC National Chapter or for assistance, please contact GOPAC's Global Secretariat at:

Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption - GOPAC
255 Albert Street Suite 904 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6A9 Canada
Tel: 613.366-3164 Fax: 613.421-7016
info@gopacnetwork.org

We would like to hear from you!

Please take the time to fill out the following questionnaire and tell us about your experience in forming a chapter in your country.

GOPAC NATIONAL CHAPTER EXPERIENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. How did you first hear about GOPAC?

2. Origins of your Country's National Chapter
 - 2.1. What motivated the creation of the GOPAC National Chapter? Was it a result of an event such as a Global Conference or workshop?

 - 2.2. How many parliamentarians were part of the Interim Steering Committee?

 - 2.3. How many parliamentarians were at the founding meeting?

3. Steps taken to form a National Chapter in your country
 - 3.1. Was there a Steering Committee or an Interim Executive Committee established?

 - 3.2. Were the Speaker and political parties informed?

 - 3.3. Others?

4. Your Chapter's membership

- 4.1. How many political parties are represented?

 - 4.2. How many members are in your parliament? How many have joined GOPAC?

 5. Has the Chapter adopted an agenda, a theme or a GOPAC GTF subject?
 - 5.1. If so, can you tell us more about this?

 6. Has the Chapter developed a program or a work plan?
 - 6.1. If so, can you tell us more about this?

 - 6.2. Are there any plans to develop position papers or handbooks?

 7. Does the Chapter have a Secretariat?

 8. Has the Chapter engaged civil society and other organizations? Informed the media?
-
-

9. How is the Chapter planning to fund its work?

10. Will members have travel funds available to attend the next Regional or Global Conference?

11. What difficulties have you encountered in trying to establish the Chapter? How have you overcome such difficulties?

Finally, we would like to encourage you to participate on GOPAC's Global Monitoring Program by filling out the [Global Monitoring Survey](#).

*** Please forward your comments or questions to: info@gopacnetwork.com