



For Immediate Release

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News Release

GOPAC Granted Observer Status at the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption

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GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law.

Ottawa, Canada – The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) is pleased to announce that it has formalized its partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) by becoming an IPU observer organization. GOPAC's observer status was formally promulgated at the IPU Executive Committee meeting of 20-21 March 2013, during the 128th IPU Assembly, held in Quito, Ecuador.

The IPU is an international association of the world's parliaments. It works for peace and co-operation amongst peoples, and for the establishment of strong representative governments across the globe.

GOPAC and the IPU have a long history of active co-operation in support of one another's missions. Many GOPAC officers and members have been members of their countries' official delegations to IPU Assemblies, and GOPAC's former CEO, John Williams, made the case against parliamentary impunity at the 127th IPU Assembly in Quebec City.

GOPAC Executive Director Akaash Maharaj said, "GOPAC and the IPU share a common agenda of strengthening democratic integrity, and I am delighted to cement our two organizations' relationship of mutual support. It is especially fitting that that we are taking this step at an IPU Assembly whose objective is to put democratic governance at the heart of development, given GOPAC's conviction that corruption is one of the greatest threats to both democracy and prosperity."

GOPAC will also forge links between the IPU's Co-ordinating Committee on Women and GOPAC's new Women's Parliamentary Network (WPN), which seeks to advance the role of female parliamentarians in combatting corruption. WPN Advisor, Vicki Baxter Amade, is representing GOPAC during the IPU Assembly and will hold discussions with members of the IPU Co-ordinating Committee.

GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law. Based in Ottawa, Canada, GOPAC has 53 national chapters on 5 continents. GOPAC supports its members' efforts through original research, global anti-corruption capacity building, and international peer support. Visit GOPAC on the web at gopacnetwork.org, on Twitter at twitter.com/GOPAC_Eng, and on Facebook at [facebook.com/gopacnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/gopacnetwork)

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