



For Immediate Release

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News Release

GOPAC Granted Observer Status in the Egmont Group

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) has been granted Observer Status in the Egmont Group following over a decade in the fight against the laundering of corrupt money. As part of GOPAC’s involvement, the Honourable Roy Cullen, P.C., member of GOPAC’s Anti-Money Laundering Global Task Force, outlined today in Lima, Peru, at the Egmont Group’s 22nd Plenary, on the role that parliamentarians can play in strengthening the operational independence of financial intelligence units.

“It is a special honour for GOPAC to be welcomed as an Observer to the Egmont Group, a network that we have long supported,” said Mr Cullen. “The Plenary is an important opportunity for GOPAC to highlight the link between corruption and money laundering and underscore to Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) the negative impacts money laundering has on the welfare of citizens. These sessions lead to collaborative efforts between the two organizations in the fight against money laundering.”

GOPAC has been cooperating with the Egmont Group for many years, participating in their Plenary Sessions in Doha, Qatar in 2009 and in Sun City, South Africa in 2013. The Egmont Group represents the vast majority of FIUs around the world. These FIUs monitor financial transactions locally and globally, and identify suspicious transactions for follow-up and investigation by law enforcement and intelligence agencies. They also play an important role in the recovery and repatriation of stolen corrupt assets.

“Parliamentarians play a vital role in combatting money laundering through their influence on legislation and rigorous oversight on governmental activity. By granting GOPAC Observer status within the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, I hope the Egmont Group and GOPAC can further collaborate on joint programs in encouraging global cooperation and reducing barriers that impede successful anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing regimes,” said Murray Michell, Chair of the Egmont Group.

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 50 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.

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