



For Immediate Release

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News Release

Dr Naser Al Sane Aids Legislators from Across Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Fight Against Corruption

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 – Dr Naser Al Sane, Board Member of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), is speaking to legislators from Eastern Europe and Central Asia about the implementation of anti-corruption legislation, institutions and mechanism at *Transparency and Accountability for Effective Oversight: Role of parliament*, a two-day international conference in Belgrade, Serbia, 21-22 May 2015.

“Corruption exists in all societies, forcing citizens the world over to suffer its dire consequences,” said Dr Al Sane. “But it is legislators, the men and women chosen to represent their citizens, who have the power to ensure transparency and accountability rule and to squelch corruption and its perpetrators in their tracks.”

The conference is hosted with the support of GOPAC Serbia, the United Nations Development Program, and the Swiss Agency for Co-operation and Development. It welcomes parliamentarians and current and prospective GOPAC members from Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as representatives from UNDP offices from various countries, the GOPAC Global Secretariat and Executive Committee, anti-corruption institutions, civil society organisations, and diplomatic missions.

“It is a great honour for me to share my experience in the national and global fight against corruption with these anti-corruption advocates and I encourage all participants to harness the powers they have been granted to bring an end to this horrible blight on our society,” concluded Dr Al Sane.

In addition to learning more about tools and actions to fight corruption, participants will be discussing the formation of a new GOPAC regional chapter to support parliamentarians’ efforts against corruption. This will be the first part of a broader agreement for co-operation on regional democratic development, transparency, and accountability.

Every year the world losses more than a \$1 trillion through bribes (World Bank), \$2.1 trillion through illicit financial flows (UN Office on Drugs and Crime) and \$3.1 trillion through tax evasion (Tax Justice Network). These three metrics alone would cover the cost of achieving all eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015 twelve times over.

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 52 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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