



For Immediate Release

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News Release

Good Governance a Priority for Cook Islands at UN Session

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.

Saint Petersburg, Russia – Cook Islands Justice Minister Nandi Glassie is making good governance a major theme for Pacific Island States at the [6th Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption \(UNCAC\)](#) - COSP6 - in Saint Petersburg, Russia this week.

“It is undeniable that good governance and anti-corruption is the key to growth, stability, security and the development of a nation, but this is not a quick-fix, requiring a medium to long-term investment for Small Island Developing States (SIDS),” Minister Glassie told the conference. “It’s important for us to fund and support local specialists, who are empowered to do their jobs and then, in turn, train and up-skill other staff members; the key to this is to also lead by example.”

Minister Glassie said that as corruption was also a transnational crime, its prevention relies on the support and cooperation of neighbouring countries and those beyond. “To drum up this support and cooperation is not easy and often difficult for one SIDS to push. This is where regional and international organizations, technical assistance providers, partners and others have a key role to play,” said Minister Glassie, acknowledging the work being done in the Pacific by the UNODC-UNDP Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project.

“The Project’s ongoing efforts – from gap analyses, legislative and institutional reform and trainings to just bringing us together – a big focus of this Project has been peer-to-peer learning and sharing of experiences. As a parliamentarian and Chair of GOPAC Cook Islands, I would also like to thank the regional GOPAC Oceania chapter for its ongoing support in the Pacific,” Minister Glassie said.

“In the Cook Islands, I am working hard to enforce an open and transparent system of Parliamentarians, especially through a modern Code of Conduct.” Minister Glassie said that another challenge was government accountability, which was a key to good governance, successful policies and effective anti-corruption efforts. “However, accountability goes beyond just the government to also the private sector, civil society and indeed, the individual,” said Minister Glassie.

GOPAC Oceania Chair John Hyde, who is also at COSP6 supports the work of Minister Glassie and Cook Islands Solicitor-General Ms Cheryl King and added that they are making a significant contribution at the conference for both Cook Islands and the Pacific region as a whole. “There is a high degree of co-operation among the Pacific nations here at CoSP6, and Minister Glassie and Ms King are working hard to ensure the Cook Islands can benefit from the next stage of compliance with UNCAC and new commitments under the recently adopted [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#),” said Mr Hyde.

GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption, strengthen good governance and clean government, and uphold the rule of law. Based in Ottawa, Canada, GOPAC has 57 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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