



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

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News Release

Strengthening Oversight of the Construction Sector to Fight Corruption and Organized Crime

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 calling on legislators across the world to make oversight of the construction sector – particularly in public infrastructure projects – a priority in the fight against corruption. The call is reflected in GOPAC’s position paper, [*Building on Sand: The importance of oversight in fighting corruption within the construction sector*](#), launched today.

“The global construction sector is frequently targeted by organized crime syndicates, and the stakes could hardly be higher,” said Akaash Maharaj, GOPAC’s Chief Executive Officer. “Hundreds of billions of dollars in public funds hang in the balance, but still more importantly, so do the lives of countless innocent citizens, who rely on public infrastructure projects for clean water, sanitation, and disaster protection.”

The paper describes how the construction sector is a driver for development but also a magnet for corruption. The paper provides parliamentarians with recommendations for closing loopholes, including:

- drafting legislation and reviewing regulatory measures for performance audits of public infrastructure projects;
- drafting and supporting legislation to empower law enforcement agencies to thwart criminal infiltration of the construction sector; and
- drafting and supporting legislation to strengthen rules on political and election campaign financing, and reduce opportunities for political influence peddling.

The Global Infrastructure Anti-Corruption Centre and the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative have both endorsed the GOPAC paper.

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 51 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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