



For Immediate Release

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# News Release

## Pacific MPs Stepping Up Anti-Corruption Efforts

### Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption

*Global Secretariat:*

904 - 255 Albert St  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6A9  
Canada  
Tel: +1.613.366-3164 x 304  
Fax: +1.613.421-7061  
[info@gopacnetwork.org](mailto:info@gopacnetwork.org)

*Website:*

[gopacnetwork.org](http://gopacnetwork.org)

*Twitter:*

[@GOPAC\\_Eng](https://twitter.com/GOPAC_Eng)

*Facebook:*

[fb.com/gopacnetwork](https://fb.com/gopacnetwork)

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

**Nadi, Fiji** – Pacific Parliamentarians are meeting in Fiji next week to discuss ways to step up anti-corruption initiatives and engage more strongly with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

“Our region has been buoyed by the Tongan Parliament’s unanimous vote to establish the Pacific’s first Standing Committee on Anti-Corruption so the time is right for Pacific MPs to examine how they can fast-track more initiatives,” said GOPAC Oceania Chair John Hyde.

Tonga is one of the five remaining Pacific nations yet to sign onto the UNCAC, and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) along with the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project are working with parliamentarians from across the Pacific in a two-day workshop on UNCAC and parliamentary oversight in Nadi, Fiji.

“GOPAC strongly believes in the primacy of parliamentarians affecting change and we’re delighted that MPs from the five Pacific countries yet to sign onto UNCAC are willingly attending our workshop which will be opened by the Fijian President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with a keynote speech by Fiji’s Speaker Dr Jiko Luveni,” said Mr Hyde.

Mr Hyde praised the commitment of the Government of Australia for supporting the UN-PRAC Project, a four-year \$4.3 million USD project in the 15 Pacific nations.

“It’s great to see the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) joining together to implement Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s anti-corruption UN-PRAC project – their work has already helped GOPAC engage many Pacific MPs and parliaments into forming new national chapters,” said Mr Hyde.

GOPAC Tonga chair Lord Fusitu’a, who is also participating in the workshop said MPs in the Pacific want to enhance anti-corruption policies, laws and institutions.

“We want to build up the capacity of our MPs in best-practice anti-corruption so we can advocate throughout all our isolated and diverse island communities,” said Lord Fusitu’a.

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 56 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](http://gopacnetwork.org), on Twitter at [twitter.com/GOPAC\\_Eng](https://twitter.com/GOPAC_Eng), and on Facebook at [facebook.com/gopacnetwork](https://facebook.com/gopacnetwork)

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Contact:

**Ann Marie Paquet**

Director of Communications, GOPAC Global Secretariat

+1.613.366-3164 x 304, [annmarie.paquet@gopacnetwork.org](mailto:annmarie.paquet@gopacnetwork.org)