



GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DE PARLEMENTARIOS CONTRA LA CORRUPCIÓN
المنظمة العالمية للبرلمانيين ضد الفساد

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News Release

Pacific MPs Need to Champion Anti-Corruption in Sustainable Development Goals

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.

Nuku‘alofa, Tonga – Parliamentarians should ensure that when their national governments and parliaments adopt priority national Sustainable Development Goals and targets after the UN General Assembly in September, that Goal 16 is included along with its anti-corruption relevant targets, GOPAC Oceania Chair John Hyde told a workshop for Tongan parliamentarians today.

Tonga is one of the five remaining Pacific nations yet to sign onto the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), and GOPAC along with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project are working with Tonga’s parliamentarians in a two-day workshop on UNCAC and parliamentary oversight.

“The Myworld survey with 7.4m responses found that ‘an honest and responsive government’ is among the top four priorities of ordinary people, and GOPAC believes that parliamentarians have a key role in ensuring governments are transparent and accountable,” said Mr Hyde at the workshop in the Kingdom of Tonga capital Nuku‘alofa.

Mr Hyde praised the commitment of Australian Government funding through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s (DFAT) UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project, a four- year USD\$4.3m project in 15 Pacific nations, including Tonga.

“It’s great to see the UNDP and the UNODC joining together to administer DFAT’s anti-corruption fund – their work has already helped GOPAC engage many Pacific MPs and parliaments into forming new national chapters,” said Mr Hyde.

GOPAC Cook Islands Chair Hon Nandi Glassie, who is also participating in the workshop said MPs in the Pacific want to enhance anti-corruption policies, laws and institutions.

“MPs understand that corruption robs our people of clean water and affordable health programmes—corruption keeps developing nations in poverty,” said Hon Glassie. “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.”

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](https://www.facebook.com/gopacnetwork).

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