Parliamentarians Boost Ethics and Conduct Mechanism in Georgia

Tbilisi, Georgia – Parliamentarians need to take ownership of their own Codes of Conducts to ensure that the highest international standards are strived for, GOPAC Board Member John Hyde told the Conference of the Open Government Partnership’s Legislative Openness Working Group at the Parliament of Georgia today.

A presenter during the session Building International Standards on Parliamentary Ethics, Mr Hyde said that parliamentarians needed to keep implementing and enhancing ethics and conduct mechanisms to build the trust of their communities.

“If the community can see parliamentarians operating within the highest code of ethical conduct, people are more willing to participate in and support community and economic development as part of nation building,” said Mr Hyde, who is also Chair of GOPAC Oceania.

Hosted by the Parliament of Georgia and the Legislative Openness Working Group, the “Committing to Openness: Parliamentary Action Plans, Standards, and Tools” workshop is one of the major international events as part of Global Legislative Openness Week which concludes 15 September.

“GOPAC is determined to keep partnering with groups like the National Democratic Institute, the Open Government Partnership, UNDP and Transparency International to meet the desire of parliamentarians to bolster their professional development through best practice ethics and conduct mechanisms,” said Mr Hyde.

“UNDP and GOPAC produced a self-assessment tool for parliamentarians to track how they are meeting best practice under the UN Conference Against Corruption (UNCAC) ethics and conduct mechanisms and we are using this in a number of parliamentary workshops.”

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