



For Immediate Release

Thursday, 23 April 2015

News Release

GOPAC Vows to Bring Kleptocrats to Justice in Speech at the United Nations

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

Website:

<http://gopacnetwork.org/>

Twitter:

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

Facebook:

fb.com/gopacnetwork

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

Ottawa, Canada – “I know that several of the kleptocrats we have in our sights are watching the broadcast of this session. To them, I have a simple message: enjoy the money and the power while you can, because we are coming for you,” warned Akaash Maharaj, the CEO of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), during his speech at the 14th session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UNCEPA) Wednesday afternoon.

Speaking to members of the Committee and representatives from UN Members States, the UNCEPA Bureau and civil society, Mr Maharaj noted that what the world loses to corruption every year is enough to achieve the Millennium Development Goals more than a dozen times over.

He spoke about GOPAC’s work on grand corruption and GOPAC’s commitment to develop international mechanisms to prosecute perpetrators of grand corruption with help of parliamentarians around the world. The mechanisms will be developed along four parallel tracks:

- National courts asserting universal jurisdiction over grand corruption
- Regional courts in Africa, Europe, and Latin America
- Expansion of the jurisdiction of international institutions or creation of a new international anti-corruption court
- Series of Civil Actions against identified kleptocrats to recover assets pilfered

The commitment was first made at the 5th Global Conference of parliamentarians Against Corruption, where parliamentarians unanimously voted to seek to establish grand corruption as an international crime, to enable international institutions and alliances to apprehend, prosecute, judge, and sentence the guilty.

“We know that the path will be hard, that the journey will be long, and that we will be beset at every step by those served by the status quo. However, we also believe that there are some forms of corruption so grave, whose effects on human life, human rights, and human welfare are so catastrophic, that they should shock the conscience of the international community and mobilise the will of nations to act across borders,” said Mr Maharaj.

The speech is available in PDF on the [GOPAC website](http://gopacnetwork.org/) and can also be viewed online here: <http://webtv.un.org/>.

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

-30-

Contact:

Ann Marie Paquet

Director of Communications, GOPAC Global Secretariat

+1.613.366-3164 x 304, annmarie.paquet@gopacnetwork.org