GOPAC Works to Improve Ethical Standards Within Parliaments at WB-IMF Annual Meeting

Ottawa – The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) laid out steps to fight corruption through improved ethical standards in parliaments at a Parliamentary Ethics, Conduct and Social Accountability panel at the Annual Meeting of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund September 21.

“Corruption is a global issue that affects all citizens – distorting economic growth, undermining the quality of public provision and decreasing the legitimacy of governance,” said John Williams, GOPAC’s CEO. “Through this panel we have provided the stepping stones necessary to ensure parliamentarians have the tools necessary to develop ethical standards within parliaments.”

The event was co-hosted by GOPAC, the World Bank Institute and the Partnership for Transparency Fund. John Williams presented the GOPAC Handbook on Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct, a product of the GOPAC Global Taskforce on Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct chaired by Ghassan Moukheiber, Member of Parliament, Lebanon.

The handbook is a tool for understanding and building effective ethics and conduct regimes in parliaments. It outlines the many elements of an effective ethics and conduct regime and explains how to develop, implement and enforce a code of ethics in parliament. It also provides a starting point for countries to fulfil provisions of Article 8 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption which calls for the development of codes of conduct for public officials.

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