Statement by GOPAC on New Ukraine Parliament and Anti-Corruption Measures

The Global Organizations of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) congratulates the newly elected Parliament of Ukraine and calls on parliamentarians in Ukraine to reject corruption and make anti-corruption measures a priority for economic reform and prosperity.

The people of Ukraine have given these men and women the mandate to represent the best interest of Ukraine. They must seize this opportunity to improve upon existing measures in the fight against corruption and develop new measures to ensure strong democratic institutions, good governance and the rule of law. Public trust and public security depend on it.

Over the coming months, instituting strong, independent, and accountable anti-corruption measures will be key to the success of the new parliament and of Ukraine. We encourage parliamentarians to put in place effective mechanisms for identifying and addressing potential and actual conflicts of interest. Well-balanced codes of ethics and conduct and well-staffed ethics commissioner offices are crucial to preventing cases of corruption.

We also remind them that parliamentary immunity should not extend to all types of prosecutions. Criminal activities and corruption should not be protected by rules of parliamentary immunity. Only in striking the balance between achieving effective oversight and building integrity will public support for democracy flourish.

In addition to advancing anti-corruption measures that relate to democratic institutions themselves, specific reforms to control corruption must be undertaken in the extractives, pharmaceuticals, finance and banking, defense and security, and construction and public infrastructure sectors. It is important to take a sector approach to deepening anti-corruption measures in Ukraine. Both the demand and supply side of corruption need to be addressed simultaneously.

The road ahead for Ukraine is not an easy one and there will be challenges along the way. We offer our full support to helping Ukraine in its fight against corruption and ensuring prosperity and good governance lead well into the future.

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