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News Release

GOPAC Workshop Strengthens Parliament’s Role in SDGs

Jakarta, Indonesia – Parliament’s role in supporting the implementation of the SDGs has been strengthened through a Regional Workshop in Jakarta, supported by GOPAC and the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB), UNDP, and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). Held on 30-31 August 2016, the workshop was part of pilot project to seek feedback on the recently developed Parliamentary Handbook on the SDGs.

The regional workshop involved participants from Members of Parliament of South East Asian Countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Myanmar) and South Asian Countries (Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka) and Morocco was held in Jakarta, Indonesia with the Indonesian House of Representatives as the host of the event.

“Parliamentarians are powerful agents of change and through their constitutional mandates; parliamentarians can be valuable partners in ensuring accountable, inclusive, participatory and transparent sustainable development for all. This workshop showcased GOPAC’s continued commitments and collaborations in developing democracy by strengthening the role of parliament to effectively implement the SDGs,” said Dr Fadli.

“SDGs require the involvement of all stakeholders particularly in ensuring the effectiveness of resources to funding for development. We believe that parliament has a strong role in ensuring the development effectiveness to implement the SDGs,” said Abdihamid Mao, from the Group Integrity Office of the ISDB, major partner in the project.

The workshop is an implementation of a GOPAC project launched during the GOPAC Global Conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in October 2015. The project, with the support of the ISDB and the UNDP, explores the role of parliamentarians in ensuring the effectiveness of development resources towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The project will develop a parliamentary handbook on the role of Parliament in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will illustrate effective approaches with practical examples of how these parliamentarians have engaged in such work already, with particular focus on the Arab, South Asian, and Southeast Asian regions.

The regional workshop concluded with the adoption of Jakarta Declaration. It sets concrete approaches that parliaments can adopt to implement the newly-declared Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parliament can review existing rules and standing orders to ensure that parliamentary committees are established and empowered, supporting the development and utilization of tools to enable parliamentarians to undertake more effective oversight of proposed laws, budgets, programmes and policies to assess their contribution to SDGs implementation.