



For Immediate Release

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# News Release

## Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)

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**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 57 national chapters on 5 regions. GOPAC supports its members' efforts through original research, global anti-corruption capacity building, and international peer support.

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## In the MENA-OECD Governance Forum, GOPAC Chair Fadli Zon Emphasized the Role of Parliament in Pursuing Inclusive Growth

**Tunis, Tunisia** – Deputy Speaker of Indonesia's House of Representatives (DPR-RI), who is also the Chairman of Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), Fadli Zon, spoke in the [MENA-OECD Governance Forum](#) held in Tunis, Tunisia, on October 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 2016 (local time). The forum, organized by OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) and hosted by the Government of Tunisia, serves as a platform for policymakers, civil society, and representatives from international organizations to share their perspectives and strategies in pursuing inclusive growth, especially for countries in the MENA region.

In the presence of official representatives and ministers of Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries, Fadli Zon delivered his perspective on the importance of parliament's role in pursuing inclusive growth.

Inclusive growth was one of the main topics of the forum. As a global issue, Fadli Zon expressed that inclusive growth must uphold two principles: 1) equality of opportunity, and 2) participation in growth by all. Inclusive growth focuses on the people as the basis of policymaking.

As the Chairman of GOPAC, Fadli Zon also stated that one of the biggest challenges in implementing inclusive growth is the high rate of corruption. Corruption cripples the government in delivering proper developmental programs and policies to its people. Corruption impedes development policies from reaching the intended target audience, as well as creates more inequality in society. Not only that, corruption also hampers the birth of innovations for country to improve the welfare of its people.

Fadli Zon also stated that parliaments all over the world play at least three roles in preventing and combatting corruption. Firstly, through legislative role. Secondly, through their role in budget control. And lastly, through monitoring and evaluation roles. The optimization of those three roles will be vital for parliaments in combatting corruption.

In addition to that, Fadli Zon also emphasized that fostering global cooperation amongst parliaments — through inter-parliamentary network — is crucial in order to make sure that the fight against corruption can be carried out globally in a systematic manner. In this context, GOPAC serves as a platform for Members of Parliaments from all over the world in the joint endeavor to combat corruption.

At the end of his speech, Fadli Zon stated that in the effort to combat corruption, involvement of all stakeholders is vital. Without a complete and committed involvement from all stakeholders, implementation of inclusive growth by the government would be very difficult.