



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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## Samoa MPs to Bolster Anti-Corruption Efforts

**Apia, Samoa** – Parliamentarians from Samoa voted to establish their own GOPAC Samoa chapter in Apia, Samoa during an Integrity Workshop conducted by the [UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption \(UN-PRAC\) Project](#) and [GOPAC \(Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption\)](#).

The workshop was opened by Samoa's Legislative Assembly Speaker, Hon. Toleafoa Fafaasi who encouraged parliamentarians to increase their exposure to best practice accountability policies. During the workshop the Speaker received a letter from Samoa's Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi announcing that Samoa would begin the process to sign the [UN Convention Against Corruption](#).

Ms. Lizbeth Cullity, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative, said: "The UN agencies are ready to assist the Government and Parliament of Samoa as they work to strengthen their integrity institutions."

Parliamentarians endorsed a constitution and a steering committee for GOPAC Samoa, with Taefu Lemi Taefu as Chair, Ms Gatoloaifaana Amataga Gidlow as Vice-Chair, Lenaita'i Victor Tamapua (the Associate Justice Minister) as Treasurer, and Ili Setefano Taateo Tafili as Secretary.

GOPAC Oceania chair John Hyde praised the commitment of Samoa's Parliamentarians in wanting to ensure they were well-prepared to undertake their oversight responsibilities.

"Samoa's parliamentarians now join their colleagues in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati and Tonga in activating GOPAC chapters," said Mr Hyde.

Newly elected GOPAC Samoa chair Taefu Lemi Taefu said, "Samoa has much to gain by signing up to UNCAC and strengthening even further the great work that integrity bodies in Samoa are already doing."

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UN-PRAC is a Joint UNDP – United Nations Organisation UNODC project supported by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Framed around UNCAC and Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Governance, Justice and Anti-Corruption), UN-PRAC aims to support Pacific Island Countries to strengthen their national anti-corruption legislation and policies, as well as institutional frameworks and capabilities to effectively implement UNCAC.