

### **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 anticorruption capacity building, and international peer support.

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## GOPAC on KASYP Caucus Meeting Important Role of Parliamentarians in Promoting the SDGs

**Siem Reap, Cambodia** – During the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Young Political Leaders Caucus Meeting 2017 which was held on 2–4 February 2017 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, GOPAC Chair Dr. Fadli Zon stated that the Parliament has an important role in ensuring the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On his keynote speech, Dr. Zon said that as a part of global stakeholders, GOPAC is committed to ensure that the SDGs agenda is not only strong at the global level, but also at the local level. He believed that the need for local actors, including subnational elected bodies to be more effectively supported and empowered to carry out its mandate and responsibilities, including through broad-based partnerships and an enhanced information base is evident now, more than ever.

Dr. Zon further said, "Parliamentarians around the world should support localizing and monitoring the SDGs at the sub-national level. They are very close to their constituents, so they could engage from the early stages of the process in ensuring the context that is specific to the local area are reflected and properly represented."

He also stated that combating corruption is essential to ensure the effective achievement of SDGs. The only way to measure the real success of SDGs is for people around the world to feel that their lives have markedly improved. If they are faced with corruption in their daily lives, this will not happen.

"Let us work to help break the culture of corruption and impunity, and help ensure that Parliament and other public institutions are accountable and trustworthy. I truly believe that when Parliament and Parliamentarians are fully aware to the SDGs, each country will take its benefit," he added.

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Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP) is an initiative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, first established in 2010, designed to strengthen political parties in Asia and to develop a cadre of accountable and responsible young political leaders. The workshops are aimed at enabling the participants to not only enhance their knowledge by learning about political concepts, but also to develop more skills by engaging in concrete actions in the form of political projects that can help to improve their own political parties and, by this way, strengthen the democratic political party systems. As a result, over 120 political projects have been implemented across at least 10 different Asian countries.