



# Doha Declaration

7TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION

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We, members of parliament from 53 countries gathering on 9-10 December 2019, observing the 2019 International Anti-Corruption Day, in Doha, Qatar, for our 7<sup>th</sup> Global Conference of Parliamentarians against Corruption;

**Recalling** one of the purposes of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is to promote integrity, accountability, and proper management of public affairs and public property;

**Also recalling** the Yogyakarta Declaration adopted at the sixth Global Conference of Parliamentarians against Corruption held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in October 2015, which emphasized the principle of integrity in ensuring effective national resources and aid management to attain national development priorities;

**Alarmed** by the corruption and injustice driving public unrest and street protests across the world which may lead to a deeper political and economic crisis within a country;

**Emphasizing** trust as an essential element to strengthen the link between parliamentarians and their constituents and public institutions with their citizens;

**Being aware** of the fact that while there is a need to increase resources to fund the development agenda; corruption, tax evasion, money laundering and other illicit flows divert the current resources from key priorities of development: education, health, infrastructures;

**Reaffirming** the role of parliament as the pillar of democracy that should provide a check and balance to those who are in power, hold their executives to account and deliver budgets as aspired by their people;

**Having affirmed** that integrity matters for parliament and parliamentarians in the exercise of their duties and that it refers to the need to improve standards of integrity in both government and parliamentary institutions;

**DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:**



1. Reaffirm that integrity matters, as a mean to rebuilding trust between public institutions and their citizens;
2. Believe that to foster progress in rebuilding public trust and strengthen the integrity of members of parliament and parliament as public institution, we support new and innovative means and tools including active citizen engagement, digital outreach and open data;
3. Urge Parliament to adopt measures and tools that are strongly relevant to the development of parliamentary integrity including:
  - a. A clear set of rules on conflict of interests;
  - b. Financial transparency including asset and economic and beneficial ownership declarations;
  - c. Code of ethics and conducts;
  - d. the establishment of rules or principles of inclusiveness through public participation in decision-making process.
4. Determine to work towards the development of public transparency and accountability through the promotion of an open, reliable, participatory, innovative and accountable system and policies that guarantee the right of the people to freedom of access to information and to participate in the public affairs;
5. Commend the initiative of H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in presenting the Annual Excellence Award to encourage and honor individuals and institutions that have demonstrated their strong commitments and endeavours in the fight against corruption;
6. Recommend GOPAC, its Regional Chapters and all of its members to develop synergy, collaboration, partnership and networks with relevant organizations including civil society organizations and individual working in the promotion of integrity, openness, transparency and good governance to successfully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in particular SDG 16;
7. Urge Parliaments and parliamentarians to step up its efforts in the engagement with UNCAC and the SDGs in particular SDG 16 through the national implementation of the tools and processes of GOPAC's Parliamentary Handbook: Parliament's Role in Implementing the SDGs;
8. Endorse that Parliaments and Parliamentarians must continue upholding the integrity values even in their oversight role on the Executive as an independent arm of governance;



9. Request GOPAC to coordinate and collaborate among the membership to establish genuine data on the impact of parliamentary strengthening of good governance;
10. Appreciate the GOPAC Chair Dr. Fadli Zon for his unwavering support in the fight against corruption and maintaining the works of the organization and welcoming the New Leadership of GOPAC.
11. Thanking the generous and well-organized host of the State of Qatar and the Shur Council of Qatar lead by H.E. Mr. Ahmad bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al mahmoud which is exceptional in the history of GOPAC.

**Done in Doha, Qatar, 10 December 2019**