



THE 7TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE
OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
AGAINST CORRUPTION
المؤتمر السابع للمنظمة
العالمية للبرلمانيين ضد الفساد

9 - 10 December 2019 - Doha, Qatar

PROCEEDING REPORT

The **7th Global Conference of Parliamentarians against Corruption** was hosted by the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, co-organized by the Global Organization Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC). This meeting was also supported by the Permanent Committee for Organizing Conferences of the State of Qatar and GOPAC Secretariat.

BACKGROUND

In October 2002, a Global Conference in Ottawa, Canada brought together over 170 parliamentarians and 400 observers who reiterated the commitment to fighting corruption and improving good governance. During the conference, the Board of Directors adopted the GOPAC Constitution which also signified the establishment of GOPAC as a not-for-profit entity.

GOPAC has an exceptional appeal as the first and only international network of parliamentarians focused solely on combating corruption. GOPAC's membership represents more than 50 countries in all regions across the globe. It consists of current or former legislators, also legislators whose right to take office had been denied.

GOPAC focuses its anticorruption programs in several areas, namely: Anti-Money Laundering, United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), Parliamentary Oversight, Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Participation of Society, Grand Corruption, and Women in Parliament.

In exercising its programs, GOPAC refers to the Global Task Forces (GTF) that fashioned to promote anti-corruption agendas identified by membership through a regional representative group of parliamentarians that champions each topic.

The GOPAC Board and Global Secretariat support the GTFs with handbooks, workshops and capacity building for parliamentarians worldwide. GOPAC utilizes the GTFs to support the introduction of legislative and oversight changes in national parliaments to control corruption, promote good governance, and hold the Executive to be more accountable.

The European Research Center for Anti-Corruption and State-Building considered Qatar to be among the highest performing countries in the Middle East and North African region. Corruption in Qatar is relatively low while petty corruption is almost non-existent in all sectors. Following the introduction of the Penal Code No. 11/2004 as Qatar's primary instrument of anti-corruption related measures. The laws are effectively enforced with substantial penalties for corrupt practices. Qatar has streamlined its regulations on business practices and engaged in effective reforms that have liberalized its economy and increased its strength and viability.

With a strong determination to continuously supporting the global anti-corruption regime, the Shura Council of the State of Qatar hosted the 7th Global Conference of Parliamentarians against Corruption on 8-10 December 2019 in Doha, Qatar.

OVERVIEW

Corruption pollutes all countries, rich and poor. When nations met in 2015 to develop the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), integrating anti-corruption priorities reflected the consensus among countries around the world that corruption must be tackled both through national action and global cooperation. This was previously recognized in the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which was agreed in 2003 and came into force in 2005. The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) was formed as a result of parliamentarians wanting to effectively implement UNCAC.

The GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (Global Conference) was a premier event in the anti-corruption calendar. It brought together current and former legislators, government officials, academics, and anti-corruption advocates from all regions. The Global Conference has become a leading venue to discuss key issues and set priorities for both the organization and the global fight against corruption.

As mandated by the Yogyakarta Declaration adopted at the 6th Global Conference in 2015, both parliaments and parliamentarians are required to strengthen their capacity, engagement and mechanisms for parliamentary oversight of SDGs attainment, along with tackling corruption.

In 2019, the theme “Integrity Matters” reflected GOPAC’s objectives to fight corruption and improve good governance throughout the world by strengthening cooperation between parliamentarians, governments and civil societies, in line with GOPAC’s commitment to promote its core values of integrity, accountability, collaboration, and diversity.

Integrity is a foundation of a sound public governance. It assures that the government is working in the interest of the entire citizens, not just for the few. Integrity is a vital element for sustainable growth, prosperity and the well-being of the society as a whole. It is among the core requirements of anti-bribery, anti-money laundering and anti-corruption laws in various jurisdictions which are intended to contribute to sustainable development. This is why integrity matters.

The 7th Global Conference will unlock opportunities to explore, engage and develop partnerships with broader good governance and anticorruption stake-holders. The Conference will also emphasize our belief in the works of parliament as a key pillar of democracy and hallmark of good governance. Parliamentarians also recognize that in order to be holding the executive to account, Parliament needs to ensure that its own house is aligned with the commitment to uphold personal integrity.

Through world-class speakers in the plenary and in-depth partner sessions, the Global Conference serves as the best platform to gain a holistic overview of anti-corruption measures through good governance. The conference highlighted the impact of integrity on refining good governance, eradicating corruption, improving people's prosperity and creating inclusive communities. Additionally, it emphasized the role of key policy makers in creating an enabling environment that harnesses anti-corruption movement.

The two-day event included an Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will discuss matters pertaining to the work of the organization, panel sessions and presentations from key policy makers, and partner sessions with major development agents. GOPAC also provided opportunities for its member Parliaments to strengthen regional cooperation through regional chapter meetings.

Plenary sessions:

- Plenary for GOPAC Report
- Plenary Session 1: *Promoting Good Governance, Stepping Up SDG 16*
- Plenary Session 2: *Our Own Integrity: Taking Ownership, Welcoming Accountability*

Partner sessions:

- The Westminster Foundation for Democracy Supporting Parliaments to Combat Corruption
- Fighting Fraud and Corruption in Development Projects: Islamic Development Bank Perspective

Regional Chapter Meetings:

- ARPAC Meeting
- APNAC Meeting
- LATIN AMERICA Meeting
- SEAPAC Meeting
- OCEANIA Meeting
- Regional Chapters in Development Meeting

The Global Conference also delivered a considerable outcome through the adoption of the Doha Declaration that highlights the need for Parliaments to enact a clear set of rules on conflict of interests, financial transparency, code of ethics and conducts, and public participation in inclusive policymaking.

Note:

Prior to the 2-day event, a series of in camera meetings were held on 8 December 2019, concluded by a Board meeting on 10 December 2019. The minutes of the in-camera meetings is presented separately for limited viewers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is to appreciate the supports that we have received from all participants and from those who have put their relentless efforts to ensure the success of this event.

The participation of this event was much more than we had expected. Your positive feedbacks are very encouraging.

We thank all the members of GOPAC, the panelists, observers, representatives of the executives and international organizations, and other guests for their presence and bringing about the spirit of fighting corruption. The halls were packed with lively talks, leaving everyone enlightened with better knowledge, information, data and know-hows in our shared effort against corruption that seeds inequality, inequity, injustice, poverty, hunger, scarcity, and conflicts.

Your contribution left us a feeling of success and great satisfaction for having brought the participants together. We had key policy makers, civil societies, NGOs, academics, professionals, and the executives, all have demonstrated strong willingness to take part in fighting corruption, globally.

Next, our sincere thanks are to the organizing committee of the event, the GOPAC Secretariat and the Permanent Committee for Organizing Conferences of the State of Qatar. They were the main driving force behind the programs and the logistics of the event.

The organizer has been instrumental in identifying and planning all aspects of the event. They took up various responsibilities and ensured the timely implementation of the plan. Some intermediate events were shifted a little bit but the smooth functioning of the event was maintained.

Next, we like to thank all the other volunteers who were not in the organizing committee but supported the overall activities in numerous ways and were equally responsible for bringing it to a success. We greatly appreciate your hard work and help in this event without any reservation.

As we recall and sincerely appreciate the contribution made by all stakeholders, we have a separate list of the participants, uploaded at the event website <http://doha7gopac.qa/>.

To summarize, the event was attended by more than 200 delegates from 53 countries, including 14 Speakers and Vice-Speakers of Parliaments, around 147 Members of Parliaments, 21 representatives of the executives, representatives from 9 international organizations, and representatives from 7 observer countries.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we wish all Delegates from Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central Africa, Chad, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Fiji, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Portugal, Moldova, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tunisia, Tanzania, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yemen, also Inter-Parliamentary Union, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Islamic Development Bank, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, Open Government Partnership, Canada Office of Conflict of Interest and Ethics, Parliamentarians for Al Quds, and GOGO Foundation, continuous success in your endeavor towards a better future!



DAY ONE

OPENING SESSION

Opening address by H.E. Mr. Ahmad Bin Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, Speaker, the Shura Council of the State of Qatar

H.E. Ahmad Bin Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud started by The Speaker welcomed the delegates and expressed his pleasure to host 7th GOPAC conference as Qatar continually commits to promoting integrity and transparency. The speaker mentioned that the conference also coincided with the ceremony of Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award. This 7th GOPAC conference shows Qatar's confirmation of determination against corruption as exercised and lead by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in Qatar administration. The Amir of Qatar strives to fight corruption because of its devastating effect and how corruption has become the biggest enemy of sustainable development.

The Speaker stated that Qatar stands with many countries that call for reform and fighting corruption strategy. Thus, it gave this conference a great importance. Since inception 2002, GOPAC has grown to create a global coalition world parliamentarian to fight corruption. He added that Qatar stands with GOPAC to eliminate and reduce

the corruption effect. Qatar believes that Parliament plays a significant role in the fight against corruption to make the government accountable to people. Government and parliament are required to set examples of transparency to the community and comply with the highest integrity.

In order to support many countries' efforts to develop a strategy against corruption, Qatar has strengthened and support the effort by establishing cooperation with United Nations Anti-corruption body. Qatar has joined UN convention against corruption that globally agreed upon. Qatar believes that corruption can only be eliminated by international cooperation. In order to support those efforts, His Highness the Amir has established the administration control and authorization body to oversight, monitor and set integrity and transparency of public services. Moreover, Qatar has been acknowledged as the frontrunner in combating corruption among the Arab countries. This was reflected in how His Highness the Amir of Qatar established many policies to exercise integrity and transparency in fighting against corruption bribery and nepotism.

The Speaker again reiterated that the conference coincided with the ceremony of Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award, that held in Kigali, Rwanda in partnership with the. The international award was presented as appreciation for persons, groups or organizations who have demonstrated a

willingness to fight systematic corruption and champion the message of anti-corruption among the people of the regions in which they operate.

In conclusion, the Speaker expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Fadli Zon for his wise management of GOPAC and GOPAC secretariat for arranging this international conference. The speaker also thanked all participants who attend the conference to show their commitments to fight against corruption. Lastly, the Speaker looked forward to any contribution of all participants in developing strategies and mechanisms to eliminate corruption.

Address by Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon, Chair of GOPAC

Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon expressed his gratitude to the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and the national authorities for hosting the event and for their gracious hospitality.

He stressed that since the UNCAC in 2003, December 9th is a day to shed lights on the importance of the fight against corruption and its detrimental effects to human development, democracy, and rule of law, a special momentum for GOPAC members, parliamentarians, as well as civil society, relevant institutions and stakeholders to gather, evaluate, and encourage agenda to combat corruption, strengthen democracy, and uphold the rule of law.

He further reiterated that corruption is a serious threat to the rule of law, the

stability and security of societies. It undermines democratic institutions, erodes economies and contributes to political instability. It weakens the legitimacy of governments, democratic institutions, and hampering reform processes. It feeds inequalities disrupt governance, destroys trust towards state institutions, and becomes a barrier in achieving sustainable development, eliminates the opportunities to build a better livelihood for the people as it steals away their rights to achieve equality, security, and prosperity.

In addition to accountability and transparency, integrity is therefore essential for building strong institutions resistant to corruption. In promoting integrity, participation from every stakeholder is essential. This requires at least four aspects: a committed political leadership; public involvement and participation in the reform process; participation of civil service unions and other employees' groups; and involvement of professional groups as well as community and religious leaders.

He highlighted that parliamentarians have a strategic role to eradicate corruption by acting with personal integrity and making ethical choices. He called the global leadership to take a moral stand and apply a culture of integrity from parliamentarians.

He stated that GOPAC has played a key role to build global awareness in fighting corruption. Since its inception in 2002, GOPAC has been actively involved in the global anti-corruption

network, which spreads across 62 National Chapters in Arab, Africa, Southeast Asia, Oceania, and Latin America. GOPAC was the first and the only international network of parliamentarians dedicated to combatting corruption, strengthen good governance and uphold the rule of law.

GOPAC has produced several oversight handbooks such as Financial Oversight, Improving Democratic Accountability Globally, and Guidelines to Strengthen Oversight through Parliamentary Donor Collaboration.

Particularly on the SDGs, together with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), UN Development Programme (UNDP), and Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), GOPAC developed a Parliamentary Handbook as guidance for Parliamentarians to implement the SDGs, especially by monitoring the effectiveness and accountability of any development assistance.

He concluded by informing the delegates on his Chairmanship that will end by the end of this conference. He further expressed his confidence that parliamentarians can break the culture of corruption. With GOPAC the people could ensure that Parliaments and other public institutions in the region are accountable and trustworthy for the benefit of all.

Keynote Speech by H.E. Mrs. Gabriela Cuevas-Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

H.E. Mrs. Gabriela Cuevas Barron underlined that as a member of GOPAC for the past 7 years, she understands how corruption hinders progress and parliamentarians have the responsibility to change the planet for good and end corruption forever. She illustrated how corruption prevents children from gaining quality education and the sick and elderly to access services. Responding to this unacceptable situation, she urged everyone to speak up and find solutions to eradicate corruption at all levels. In coming to this event, she acknowledged the delegates for taking another step forward.

As the president of the IPU, she asserted that she and the IPU stand firmly to fight against corruption. Like the theme of this conference, she wholeheartedly believes that integrity matters. She addressed the global phenomenon of the decline of public trust against the parliament and expressed that everyone needs to gain public confidence.

As the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are globally accepted as the most important roadmap, she reminded the delegates that we only have 10 years to change this planet. In order to achieve the goals, a change in politics and institutions is needed. As SDG 16 is the goal that is closely related to the agenda of GOPAC, she stated that parliamentarians need to regain public

trust by making enabling effective institutions and inclusive decision making – which are the nature of the parliament.

She further stated that champions in the parliament are still needed. She encouraged the delegates by asserting the power of political will, leadership, the parliament, and parliamentarians in the efforts of fighting corruption. She believed that everyone present is committed to ending corruption.

Mentioning the public's active contribution, she stated that trust is the key to gain an active society. IPU will continue to work for SDGs and ask for cooperation from parliamentarians, as they have a great duty in translating and ratifying international conventions and agreements into national law. Other than that, parliamentarians have the responsibility to hold the government accountable.

She later mentioned the 2nd plenary session of the day regarding integrity and expressed her belief that innovation is also needed alongside integrity. She argued that transparency can no longer be passive by increasing accountability in communication and explaining to the people why politics is important.

She closed her speech by challenging delegates to be the generation to end corruption forever by taking the lead and showing that political will is powerful enough. Together, we can achieve the change the planet urgently needs.

PRESENTATION FOR GOPAC REPORT AT THE PLENARY

Report on activities of GOPAC Secretariat by Mrs. Endah Retnoastuti, Executive Director, GOPAC Jakarta Office

Mrs. Endah Retnoastuti stated that GOPAC Jakarta office was established following the result of the sixth Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption in Yogyakarta, 2015. The Jakarta office has become the first point of contact for maintaining communication.

She further explained that the unique membership of GOPAC made it grow quite fast. GOPAC has been promoting its activities by sending profile books, videos, and newsletters to its 1000 members and 500 observers comprised of individuals and organizations.

GOPAC also has a total of 62 chapters around the world. In its activities, she mentioned that GOPAC Jakarta office has produced handbooks written in Arabic, Russian, Vietnamese, and Indonesian for parliamentarians in implementing SDGs.

She further reported the partnerships and MoU between GOPAC and a number of organizations such as the observer status with the IPU in 2013 and with the ECOSOC in 2017.

Later, she explained GOPAC's right to speak at the ECOSOC forums, observer status with the Council of Europe, partnerships, and MoU with UN Global Compact, IACA, TI, OECD, and Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

Aside from that, she also explained about GOPAC's workshop and conference participation such as International Anti-Corruption Conference, Forum of Parliamentarians at CoSP, London Anti-Corruption Summit 2016, among others.

She closed her report by expressing acknowledgment to the works and support from the board, executive committee, and partners.

PLENARY SESSION 1

Promoting Good Governance, Stepping Up SDG 16

This session was moderated by **GOPAC Secretary Mr. John Hyde**. He started the session by stating that open, inclusive, and transparency are important elements in fighting corruption.

He encouraged Parliaments to embrace innovation and ways of having active engagement, while promoting governance, and stepping up SDG 16 as the standalone development goal. He reaffirmed that without justice for all, transparency, and accountability, we cannot promote universal healthcare, inclusive policies, and 100 percent education. He stated that SDG16 and good governance are the keys.

He emphasized that active parliamentary engagement is about the partnership with all communities and stakeholders.

Mr. Giorgi Kldiashvili, Member, the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee

Mr. Giorgi Kldiashvili stated that the objective of anti-corruption measures should not be focused only on tackling corruption but also ending corruption at all levels.

He represented the OGP, a multi-stakeholder initiative that addresses

various issues in good governance. The core objective of the OGP is to create more open and accountable government, that is more responsive with the need of its citizens and co-create with the societies.

The OGP encourages central governments, local governments, civil societies, and international organizations to work together, co-create and address related issue to OGP. Originally initiated by the United States and established with 8 members in 2011, the OGP has now 79 member countries. The core values of the OGP are accountability, participation, inclusion, and responsiveness. Initially piloting 15 states, the OGP has now piloting good governance practices in 30 countries, involving academics, professionals, policymakers, civil societies and businesses.

The OGP has recorded more than 4,000 commitments, encouraging the establishments of 167 national action plans, involving 20 governments, more than 3,000 civil societies, and nine multilateral partners.

OGP members engage in pure learning, sharing experiences and good practices in fighting corruption. Improving less developed democracies into more established administrations.

The OGP applies the independent reporting mechanism to encourage Governments to conduct self-assessment and to ensure that they implement the action plans effectively.

The OGP emphasizes civic space, gathering all voices to fighting corruption, improve public services, encourage the creation of digital governance, opening public access to budgeting formulation, ensuring the right to access information for all people, access to justice, and environmental preservation. The OGP covers 3 major beneficial aspects in anti-corruption ownership, namely: transparency, money politics, and transparency in procurement process.

He later mentioned the relationship between SDGs and anti-corruption efforts. The Goal 16 of SDGs aimed at creating peace, justice and accountable institutions, important elements in fighting corruption. Many OGP members apply the 17 goals of SDGs in their action plans.

He gave several success stories from OGP members in implementing good governance:

- Uruguay has been successful in improving gender balance.
- South Africa has increased public participation in budgeting, resulting in better communication between the government and the people.
- New Macedonia has formed access to justice, specifically for the marginalized groups of the poor.
- Argentina has implemented a platform to improve services in productive health.

He also acknowledged that several Parliaments have launched action plans toward parliamentary openness. These

Parliaments championed OGP values, thus becoming important partners for good governance. He mentioned several good practices from legislative openness:

- Georgia has launched 3 legislative openness action plans with a commitment to support citizen engagement in the legislative process. The Parliament has formed a permanent council on OGP, while also launched a platform that enables the people to electronically initiate various legislations, submit electronic petitions, and monitor development agenda set by the government.
- Paraguay has improved public participation in budgeting.
- Chile's Chamber of Deputy has developed a motion to empower regulation on citizen participation.
- Croatia has launched e-consultation portals to improve oversight mechanisms, provide high-quality information, and improve public engagement.

He informed that the next step is to increase the engagement of new Parliaments and partners. He encouraged the delegates to join the global network, establishing their institutions as open parliaments that are responsive and accountable to their citizens. He reiterated that the key is to co-create and increase dialogues, as stronger Parliaments will have more capabilities to represent the citizens.

**H.E. Dr. HM Azis Syamsuddin,
Vice Speaker, the House of
Representatives of the
Republic of Indonesia**

He stated that SDGs put a strong emphasis on 5P: prosperity, people, planet, partnership, and peace. SDGs is a proper response to face the challenges in the 21st Century, particularly those related to the four dimensions of economy, social, environment, and governance, which aimed at ensuring inclusive development that upholds the principle to leave no one behind.

He reiterated that the governance dimension has been further elaborated through Goal 16 of SDG, peace, justice, and strong institutions. In the last few decades, institution building has become a major vision for the Indonesian Parliament under the modern parliament concept.

Open Parliament Indonesia was declared in 2018, coincided with the 73rd anniversary of Indonesia's national day of independence. Open Parliament was initiated to create a more open parliament, transparent, accountable, and inclusive. Open Parliament is aligned with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative which encourages openness of the executives.

To realize its commitment in implementing good governance and to demonstrate a strong political will to encourage an open parliament, the Indonesian House of Representatives

has formulated the National Action Plan for Parliamentary Openness.

In Asia, the Indonesian House was recorded as the first Parliament that has independently formulated and adopted the Action Plan. At the global level, DPR was among the top 20 Parliaments that have initiated this step.

The Indonesian National Action Plan for Parliamentary Openness 2018-2020 consisted of five action plans: improvement of data governance and legislation information service; increase the use of parliamentary information technology; improvement of public information openness; the formulation of Parliamentary openness roadmap; and the establishment of Parliamentary Openness institutions.

He mentioned two major challenges in realizing institutional building: 1) to maintain the sustainability of parliamentary openness initiative, and 2) to create effective coordination among different stakeholders.

He further stated that democracy is built upon the principle of public participation. The people have the right to participate in policy formulation. At the Indonesian House, efforts to increase public participation have been implemented, one of which is through the development of the Legislative Information System. An ongoing test case for the system is to collect public opinion on Omnibus Law.

He also added that through DPR Now! mobile application, the Parliament could gather public interests and opinions more efficiently, crossing the need to hold direct meetings.

Dr. Carlos Alberto Pérez Cuevas, Chair, GOPAC Latin America

Dr. Carlos Alberto Pérez Cuevas gave an overview of the objective of the SDG 16 which is to facilitate access to justice at all levels. SDG 16 focuses on the promotion of peaceful societies which is very important for Latin America. He stated that we need to strive to reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms. Latin America has recently seen a number of cases of corruption.

He expressed that he would like to address the series of elements that are important to note, the first one being corruption in government. The majority of citizens in Latin American countries perceived that the rate of corruption has increased. Yet, at the same time, the number of citizens who believe that they can make a difference was also high, making this an ambivalent phenomenon.

Further, he explained that the circumstance of corruption is complex. He gave an example of how corruption affects women. He mentioned that many women rely on public services yet experience boundaries in accessing them. In a survey, it was found that 1 out of 5 women is a victim of corruption-related sexual harassment – sextortion,

such as in accessing medical services. Other than that, he also raised a concern regarding political bribery which resulted in the decrease of public trust in government. 53% of people think that corruption increases and the government is not doing enough. He further pointed out that 53% of people think that the government is the most corrupt institution. More than 1 in 5 people who use public services paid a bribe (amounting to 56 million people in the countries surveyed). The rate of bribery was also high, he mentioned that the highest number of bribes was found among the police.

He further elaborated that the government has a long way to go to ensure people can denounce corruption without fearing reprisals. He viewed that people always fear of telling the truth yet many people are ready to take a role to openly fight and denounce corruption.

He later provided some recommendations such as for political leaders to strengthen democracy, guaranteeing transparency on the election, regulating political financing, online access for citizens, and allowing means to report and denounce corruption. Other than that, sextortion needs to be recognized.

He ended his talk with a hopeful tone, saying that the Latin American countries have a great opportunity to work towards SDG 16. He also called for help to other GOPAC regional chapters and countries around the world. He

hoped that the Latin American countries present in the conference can see the effective action to fight corruption and achieve world peace.

**Hon. Mrs. Majda Alfallah,
Board Member, ARPAC**

She started by mentioning her attendance at the conference as the representation of Libya. Coming from a country that is fighting for a stable and democratic state, she is very determined to promote good governance implementation.

Hon. Mrs. Alfallah explained that the United Nations has agreed to adopt SDG16+ in 2017 and define it as an action plan for sustaining the livelihood of future generations. She then underlined how SDG 16 as the main objective related to this conference. She warns that the main barrier of SDGs, especially number 16, is corruption. Corruption is a disease that plagued all countries. It increases poverty all over the world as 1 out of 9 people in the world don't have access to food. Therefore, the main solution is by fighting against corruption through justice, strengthening civil society and good governance implementation.

She believed that good governance is very important for fighting corruption because it pushes authorities to manage resources for the sake of the citizens as well as encourages citizen engagement in the policymaking process. She gave an example in Libya where it was controlled by one person with no

diversity view, no citizen engagement or recognition to minority rights. Now, Libya has a new generation raised under a new regime that encourages the democratic and participation of its citizens. Therefore, she stressed out some important points that hopefully will bring flourish to democratization in a country, first of all, is open decision making by strengthening society and increasing participation in the voice of all the people. Second, is providing equal opportunity by not manipulating the decision making to certain groups' benefit only. The third is encouraging transparency and accountability as the main backbone of the OGP that built on. Fourth, raising awareness and providing communication to society to increase accountability of the government and compliance with the law. Lastly, the decentralization of resources management to ensure the quality of public services delivery.

She stated that Parliament's role in encouraging OGP is to coordinate through an international organization, to guarantee equal participation that will increase openness and strengthen civil society, to increase the transparency of the parliamentary process, as well as encourage decentralization where municipalities have broader access to manage their own resources promote good conduct.

She also underlined the important role of international relations to provide different perspectives of many parliaments that will encourage experience exchange between states and

encourage positive intervention that promotes democracy and OGP. She gave an example of Libya where 80% of the people work from the public sector hence very prone to bribery and corruption. She believes that the most important key to implement OGP in Libya is by providing education. Education that will change Libya's younger generation's mindset towards democratic way rather than what the last Libya regime has been planted in their mind and political culture.

Lastly, Mrs. Alfallah thanked the state of Qatar for hosting GOPAC conference and expects to use this platform to continue to fight against corruption and establish good governance.

**Mr. Abdullah bin Fahad bin Ghorab Almarri,
Member of the Shura Council
State of Qatar**

Hon. Mr. Abdullah bin Fahad bin Ghorab Almarri started by explaining the importance of establishing a panel to promoting good governance and achieving sustainable development. This is important to ensure collaboration between parliament and government. While parliaments fail to promote good governance and achieve a fair distribution of development, people's trust will be eroded.

He expressed his concern over the recent surge of people, calling for fighting corruption and improving good governance. Left unaddressed, this

movement will lead to chaos: the loss of lives and physical properties.

He acknowledged the great important role that GOPAC is conducting. The task is a hard one, particularly in the era of technology, where smooth communication between different partners makes the fight even harder.

In some countries, there may be divisions between parliament and government, making it harder to fight corruption and promote good governance.

He later welcomed all delegates in Doha. He wished that the goals of the meeting will be achieved, most importantly in promoting good governance and achieving the 17 goals of SDGs set by the UN.

He reiterated that there is no clear definition of good governance. The World Bank, for example, emphasizes the role of government in managing resources. Thus, it is important to uphold and respect the rule of law, follow up on the implementation of those laws, ensure transparency and integrity. He highlighted that sometimes, developments are not achieved, not due to corruption but due to mismanagements, which is the result of the absence of good governance.

Transparency International has a different definition. It emphasizes that good governance is not the task of the government alone, but also those of civil societies and businesses.

He stated that corruption is an impediment to development in many countries, as many physical development funds are being illegally transferred to corrupt officials. It creates a negative impact, not only on the institutions, but also to the lives of the people, especially in the least developing nations.

He further acknowledged the importance of all 17 goals of SDGs. He expressed a grave concern that corruption worsens the lives of the people who are seeking refuge in other countries. To tackle corruption, all countries have to work together and not individually, because corruption can become the cross border. Parliaments have a key role in leading anti-corruption efforts and increasing people's awareness.

He suggested that Parliament should initiate the following: i) setting up the necessary legislation and adopting international agreements into national legislation; ii) conduct effective oversight mechanism; iii) continuing parliamentary discussion relevant to this topic; and iv) strengthen cooperation between parliaments around the world.

He closed his presentation by stating that fighting corruption and achieve SDGs are the responsibilities of all. The Shura Council in this regard, appreciates the Qatari government for its effort in curbing corruption, as the necessary step to improve good governance has been taken.

The Q&A

Following the presentations from the panelists, several comments/questions were raised from the floor:

Ghana: What was missing from the presentation was the emphasis on building strong institutions, not personalities. Often times, when civil society is strong, the parliament is not. We need to have a strong parliament, perform responsibilities and transmit relevant information, and assess citizens to make informed decisions. The executive must promote inclusiveness in the government. We need to ensure that what we do here is focused on the interest of the citizen.

Libya: In the delegate's experience, corruption takes place inside and outside Libya through illicit migration, which is a major corruption. However, the freedom of movement through migration is supported by numerous organizations. How would an exempt for instances such as this be made?

Iran: Nowadays, corruption is no longer a simple problem, it has become cross-cutting such as through money laundering and has grown into an international phenomenon. Thus, effective measures at the national and international level are important. Recently, the Iranian parliament passed an act to recognize and counter money laundering which constitutes a solid basis to combat corruption and promote international corruption. However, Iran faces

challenges at the international level. We would like to reiterate our commitment and will to fight against corruption effectively and show our integrity to fight economic terrorism.

Morocco: Fighting corruption should start from this conference through a just and fair representation of women in the platform, in the entities, bodies, and organizations at all levels. Secondly, parliamentarians should adopt international policies that respect people's freedom. We are witnessing all over the world the lack of trust in authority, especially in parliament. Therefore, we need to have open parliament in order to build trust between the citizen and political institutions. The Moroccan parliament has joined the Open Parliament Partnerships and has identified 6 commitments: follow the constitutional measures to guarantee CSO participation and public engagement, engage the citizens in the legislation processes, implement legislation to abide relevant roles, consult and engage relevant institutions, and engage partnerships with civil society and university.

Ecuador: To combat this phenomenon, we need to invest more in education, in order to empower young people. We need to think of other actions to prevent wealth disparity. We also need to be cost-efficient and transparent in public procurements. Other than that, law enforcement should not punish criminals leniently and that any elected

representative that have been involved in corruption should be prohibited from participating in elections or have any contact with the state. In terms of international relations, the world must unite against transnational plagues, such as drug trafficking and money laundering which are prevalent in many Latin American countries. Another point is to have soft loans for governments that have managed public funds well. We have to make sure everyone develops a society that is just.

Central Africa: Many countries in Africa suffer from the economic crises in the 2010s that undermined their development. Further, corruption and bad governance play a significant role in such a downfall. The delegate believes that equal distribution of resources is very important. He convinces that the conference provides benefits and adequate support for developing his country. From this conference, his country can learn policies that foster good governance and develop a government body to fight corruption. He believed that it is important to promote transparency and integrity through parliamentarians and public figure in the country. In Central Africa, the parliament has hosted public seminars to educate people about the core values of integrity and transparency to hold the government accountable. The parliament also keeps promoting judiciary and increasing people's capacity in combating corruption.

Afghanistan: Afghanistan has been suffering from war for the last 40 years as well as terrorism. The delegate reiterated from Afghanistan's experiences that there is a linkage between drugs, terrorist and corruption. He asked about the feasible solution for the country such as Afghanistan that suffering from war and further terrorism to fight against corruption.

Chad: The delegate stated that there is a high level of corruption in Chad like other countries. He highlighted that Chad government and parliament have established strong cooperation and provided various anti-corruption training for government officers. He believes that attending GOPAC allows the organization in developing countries to exchange experiences and increase the capacity of civil societies to fight corruption.

Kenya: The delegate believes that bad governance and corruption play a significant role in undermining development. Therefore, parliamentarians should show integrity because parliamentarians are chosen by the people. They are public figures and should give good examples by committing high integrity when performing their duties in parliament. He believes that integrity should start from the person's will to fight against corruption. However, the parliamentarian's will itself is not enough. A good governance system and platform are required to assist the anti-corruption movement.

Iraq: The delegate noted that fighting against corruption required transparency, integrity, good governance, international cooperation, and any other measures. Two main points are political and economic stability. Political instability leads to alienation, separation and horizontal conflict that ruins development and leads to corruption. In order to regain control of good governance, better political stability is required. Second, without economic stability, the government cannot serve its citizens as it should. Economic instability will only lead to monopoly, bribery, and corruption. Lastly, the delegate stressed out that GOPAC should aim at promoting decision making and monitor its recommendation in-country members. He hoped that the outcome recommendation from the GOPAC Conference can become a compulsory recommendation for its members.

Malaysia: Parliament's role is necessary in fighting corruption, especially in the oversight mechanisms, for example, to monitor public prosecutor. The figure is a decision-maker in punishing the perpetrators of corruption. But sometimes, corruption cases dropped due to the close relationship between the public prosecutor and the alleged corruptors.

Algeria: The country has signed international convention and parliament has legislated several anti-corruption laws. There are also several presidential decrees relevant to this

issue. The problem in Algeria is the lack of power and the lack of independence. It is time to give greater power to the parliament to enact new laws that shall serve as a benchmark for parliamentary effectiveness and an indicator of democracy. There was a surge of protest in early February, where the people went to the streets demanding better democracy. In light of the threat of corruption, the parliament has to obtain enough power to issue new laws and to conduct effective oversight. He reiterated that Parliaments have to listen more to the people, closer to justice, and find a new mechanism that merges journalism with anti-corruption efforts.

Pakistan: Corruption is a dangerous disease that can infect high officials. This act of criminality hits the poor very hard and puts the world into an unsurmountable social problem like hunger, poverty, and crimes. More concentrated effort is needed to eliminate this disease. Pakistan has enacted a corruption act, national accountability bureau act, anti-money laundering act, and benign transaction act. Corruption is still present in Pakistan. The country has not been able to totally eradicate corruption. The organization brings noble objectives, but what is the progress? Has it done a proper assessment? He suggested the establishment of an independent and credible body that helps the organization to achieve its objectives.

Mali: The country has faced a multifaceted crisis, due to corruption and other causes. The Parliament has adopted laws on anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, and counter-terrorism. He believed that Parliament has to become a strong institution. In Mali, the Parliament is still weak, that's why oversight is an impediment. Mali has assigned an interrogation committee which can monitor the process of military equipment procurement. It is important to monitor all entities with the authorization to buy the equipment. He suggested the organization to conduct an assessment. To what extent are citizens involved in managing public affairs?

Nigeria: The Nigerian parliament has the capacity to support the fight against corruption such as through a number of commissions dedicated to fighting corruption. The delegate underlined that Parliaments have to do what's necessary to make sure that the fund from the people will be used for the people. The delegates called for international support to monitor corrupt practices.

Tunisia: The Tunisian revolution in 2011 was caused by corruption. The country has signed the UNCAC and has enacted a number of constitutions and laws to fight corruption. Do you think these are enough to fight corruption? The speakers have said that many parliaments are accused of being corrupt but we're also the ones who fight for these laws. I believe that the

fight against corruption should also focus also on education and culture that focuses on raising new generations and educate everyone to fight corruption.

Yemen: The delegate acknowledged GOPAC to have provided opportunities to increase the capacity of Parliamentarians in fighting corruption. In the Arab region, corruption is the most important challenge that people are currently facing. He stated that corruption in the region may have caused by the lack of democracy in the governmental system. In exercising their works, parliaments may speak on behalf of the people, on behalf of the institution, and on behalf of the political parties, thus representing different interests. However, the involvement in GOPAC helps parliaments to re-focusing their roles.

Fiji: Parliaments are powerful agents of change and responsible for effective translation of SDGs into national laws; setting up development priorities, monitoring; and ensuring government accountability. The delegate highlighted the importance of SDG 16 to promote the creation of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice, and accountable institutions. To achieve SDG 16, parliament has to secure important roles, both by working at the institution and in building people's awareness. Peace is a fruit of justice and strong institutions, while the latter is the result of prudent decisions and strong leadership. The delegate raised a

question on the possible ways and means for capacity building in anti-corruption. Fiji has established several institutions to fight corruption, such as an independent commission against corruption and accountability and transparency commission.

Egypt: The delegate raised concern over the violation of the rights of Member of Parliaments (MPs) in Egypt. The former Speaker was an expert in anti-corruption, and he had been detained without any accusation. As many as 10 MPs were assassinated or died in prison. Around 279 MPs are still suffering. This condition is unacceptable. They won through a democratic election, voted by 22 million people. The delegate requested GOPAC to call the release of Egyptian MPs.

Qatar: The delegate hoped that the conference will bring benefits to participants. He proposes that GOPAC should develop some strategic goals. The goals can be divided into medium and long-term vision. For example, long-term vision should elaborate on a national strategy for its individual country members. Qatar has developed such a strategy and willing to share its experiences with the participants. Further, the delegate underlined the importance of developing a strategy in education, especially in drafting long term curriculum and education system all around the world. By developing this strategy, he expected that the newer generation will understand corruption and its danger.

Responses from the Panelists:

Hon. Mrs. Majda Alfallah responded to the Afghanistan delegation by asserting that the increase of corruption in the times of conflict is normal because of the lack of transparency and situation where the search for security is the priority of the people, thus increasing the chance for corruptors to seize these unfortunate opportunities. Afterward, she responded to the question on CSO by stating that the role of CSO is important to ensure stability and a good mechanism of governance. She asserted that education is important, such as educating young people on how to serve their neighborhood and raise awareness to others even create effective organizations and find effective tools to increase people's participation. Responding to the Algeria delegation, she expressed that law alone will not end corruption because it takes the whole system to fight corruption through accountability, transparency, increasing trust, rule of law, good governance. She mentioned that assessing the participation of the citizen in fighting corruption through questionnaires or studies are also needed.

Hon. Mr. Abdullah bin Fahad bin Ghorab Almarri responded to the Czech delegation by emphasizing the effectiveness of technology in mobilizing people, which can be adopted to pressure the government. He viewed that using non-conventional

measures to fight corruption can put a light on this issue. Other than that, he suggested partnering with international organizations to increase pressure. He later responded to the Afghanistan delegation that there is a connection between war and corruption. In his response to the Iraqi delegation, he stated that stability is important to fight corruption as instability can lead the fight in the wrong direction. He finally responded to the Malaysia delegation to not give up and continue to put pressure on the government because we may not know the circumstances in the future.

PLENARY SESSION 2

Our Own Integrity: Taking Ownership, Welcoming Accountability

This session was moderated by **Hon. Puakena Boreham, GOPAC Oceania**. She raised concern over the dissatisfaction of participatory democracy that has reached a more critical point than ever before. Parliaments need to conduct their business with integrity, to be trusted, and to maintain the accountability of government. She encouraged all delegates to share understanding on integrity and how to develop it within their institutions.

Mr. Kedar Khadka, Executive Director, the Good Governance Foundation, Nepal

He emphasized that Parliamentarians are a stakeholder in promoting good governance and fighting corruption. Thus, building accountability is not only the issue of Parliament alone.

He raised a concern that these days, many countries have been minimizing the role of civil societies, especially in a post-conflict situation in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. This condition gave rise to a new definition of democracy.

After the election, Parliamentarians may have won the battle. But, in sustaining democracy, all citizens have a role. He raised a concept of democracy dividend,

where Parliamentarians think that they have won the battle, claiming themselves as leaders, taking more benefit, bidding without competition, know democracy more than the rest. Under this condition, Parliaments in South Asia have not been able to be accountable for the voters.

He mentioned several governance problems: Poor access to public services delivery; Indifference, collusion with vested groups; Rampant corruption, extortion by agents and middlemen; and Loose system and weak integrity.

He argued that poor public services may escalated to the violent conflict under the “volcanic anger against public services,” which started by the following sequence: unmet needs, emotions, anger, escalating anger, and rage of violence.

Unmanaged public services can lead to a crisis in the following direction: corruption emerges, people forming political sides, the position gets harder, communication stops, the conflict goes outside the communities, perceptions become distorted, sense of crisis emerges.

He explained the accountability relationship framework, where the state (politicians and policymakers); providers; and citizens/clients (non-poor and poor) are affecting one another. It is necessary to reduce the gap between the three elements.

He claimed that the civil societies in South Asia have applied a change of

approach to be involved in policy formulation: from high pitched to deliver voices by a citizen; from shouting to counting; from reaction to informed action; from episodic to organized action; and from confrontational to win-win situation.

He later explained the concept of social accountability which consists of the following steps: improve the effectiveness of development, ensure public participation, examine public office responsiveness, evaluate the utilization of public resources, and enhance local governance. The basic elements of social accountability consist of citizen action, state action, information, interface, and civic mobilization.

Social accountability is a fundamental element in democracy. It functions as a contract between the state and the citizens. In this context, the citizens have the right to demand accountability while public officials have an obligation to be accountable to their citizens.

He also mentioned several challenges in achieving social accountability, such as to break the barrier of political, social and cultural constraints; lack of knowledge of the constituents; and lack of trust among stakeholders.

**Hon. Mrs. Jelena Zarić
Kovačević, Member of
GOPAC Serbia**

She expressed the willingness of the Serbian government to take initiative of developing national chapter of GOPAC.

The Serbia National GOPAC has implemented three GOPAC recommendations to fight corruption in the country:

1. Establishing cooperation with a state audit, public procurement, state budget, and control.
2. Giving attention to the instrument of a code of ethics to encourage citizen involvement in decision making and budgeting process.
3. Encouraging Parliamentarians to develop different strategies in fighting corruption.

She introduced an online portal where Serbian people can monitor government spending on public services. The portal has a useful feature of creating reports on budget plans and execution. This portal allows Serbian people as well as Parliamentarians to control government revenue and spending budget. At the moment, the government has tried to encourage local governments to develop the local version of the portal. Regarding the portal implementation, the Serbia parliament is open for other GOPAC members to exchange experiences in developing the monitoring portal, raising people's awareness in securing the integrity and maintaining transparency of government agencies.

For example, Serbia has worked together with Moldova and Bosnia in hosting 2015 and 2017 International conferences to fight against corruption.

She said that recently, the Serbian Parliament adopted a set of criminal regulations, Law on Lobbying as well as

the Anti-Corruption Law that introduces several important features:

1. The competence of the Agency and its legal and financial independence have been expanded.
2. The Agency may at any time have an insight into the bank accounts of public officials.

While the basic goal of the Law on Lobbying is to establish a clear normative framework in the field of lobbying through the protection of public interest and the principle of integrity, as well as to eliminate the shortcomings in the Serbian legal system.

Hon. Ms. Kovacevic reiterated the importance of a full-scale anti-corruption mechanism through citizen involvement. Therefore, Parliamentarians should represent citizens, and encourage them to take part in the decision-making process. Ultimately, this initiative will develop integrity inside the institution and increase people's trust towards the government to fight corruption in the country:

1. Establishing cooperation with state audit, public procurement, state budget, and control.
2. Giving attention to the instrument of a code of ethics to encourage citizen involvement in decision making and budgeting process.
3. Encouraging Parliamentarians to develop different strategies in fighting corruption.

Hon. Lemi Taefu, MP, Chair, GOPAC Samoa

Hon. Lemi Taefu emphasized the principles that members of parliaments need to stand for, namely integrity, taking ownership, and embracing accountability. He further stated the roles that members of parliaments have as strong advocates of anti-corruption. They have legitimacy and credibility to uphold and make the executive branch accountable. Other than that, they have to work regionally and beyond to make sure the executive branch supports their international endeavors.

He continued by explaining GOPAC's values that overlap with the topic of the discussion: integrity, accountability, collaboration, and diversity. Although corruption is not defined in the UNCAC, he underlined that in corruption, everyone has a price. He stated that when there is corruption, freedom of speaking out is restricted, democracy is undermined, development is hindered, and the government's ability to provide basic services is undermined.

He further stated that in parliament, corruption is the last thing they want to see as it would be difficult to control. Yet, he viewed that parliament nevertheless has a crucial role.

He defined accountability as a concept that many people are aware of, which means having to account for the actions that have been done and the money that has been spent. He further highlighted that accountability goes hand-in-hand

with Generally Accepted Accounting Principle (GAAP).

As the acting chair of GOPAC Oceania, he further illustrates the situation in the Pacific Island Countries where all countries with the exception of Tonga have accepted UNCAC. There is a challenge to becoming a member state such as having to have an established independent anti-corruption body. However, there are some existing bodies in that work to fight corruption as well as legislation pertaining to the efforts to counter corruption.

Afterward, he continued by explaining about parliamentary oversight as a means of accountability through finance and expenditure committee, officers of parliament select committee, the commission of inquiries to investigate, as well as having members of parliaments as members of organizations of parliamentarians.

He illustrated the corruption perception index ranking from Transparency International where 0 being most corrupt and 100 being very clean. He mentioned that the average of all countries is 43 where $\frac{2}{3}$ of the countries are below 50.

He highlighted that we are counting down to meet the targets of SDG, especially target 16.5 by showing integrity, taking accountability, and taking ownership of what we do. In his final remarks, he underlined the importance of strengthening public confidence, strengthen the country's reputation, boost economic growth, and

remembering how corruption contradicts with the principles of freedom and democracy. He closed his talk by stating that we need not only to speak about corruption but also live and stand by the principles we preach.

**Mrs. Lyne Robinson Dalpe,
Director of Advisory and
Compliance, Office of Conflict
of Interest and Ethics
Commissioner, Canada**

She started by explaining the role of The Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner as an Officer of Parliament responsible for administering the Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons and the Conflict of Interest Act for public office holders. The Commissioner is responsible for the control and management of the Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner, which is an entity of Parliament. The Commissioner is independent of the government, and the position's appointment process and mandate are set out in the Parliament of Canada Act.

Canada has started to build the framework since 1967. In 1973, the first guidelines for public office holders were introduced. In 1994, Prime Minister Chrétien appointed an ethics counselor to administer the Code of Conduct for Public Office Holders. In 2004, the Parliament of Canada Act was amended to create the first independent position of Ethics Commissioner. In 2006, the

title of the position was changed to Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner with the adoption of the Federal Accountability Act.

Since GOPAC, Canada's public sector ethics framework has continued to develop. In 2007, the first Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner was appointed, while the conflict of interest act for public office came into force. The code applies to all elected members. Members who are also Ministers are subject to more stringent rules.

The regime seeks to ensure that elected officials do not use their position to promote their personal interests or the interests of their families. The code and the act are effective because of three strong points: strict rules, transparency they provided, and independence of the office.

Public officials and their families are not allowed to receive gifts and are subject to reporting requirements. They are also prohibited in participating in debates or voting where their interests are represented.

To help Members and Public Office Holders understand their obligation, the office guides them through the process and provides advice tailored to their personal needs.

In ensuring compliance and preventing conflict of interests, the office can conduct investigation and release public reports. Since 2007, 48 reports have been released to the public.

Under this regime, everyone in the administration can be investigated, including the highest-ranking officials. She also mentioned that ensuring transparency can be a challenge because the act and the code have strict confidential requirements. The office exercises transparency as much as possible while respecting the confidential requirements. Members of Commons also deliver information about their immediate families, regarding their assets and liabilities.

The Office has to assure that the Members and Public Office Holders will receive fair and equal treatment regardless of their political perspective. The Commissioner of the Office is non-partisan, elected by Parliament and solely responsible to the Parliament. The Office is a part of Parliamentary infrastructure in Canada.

**Hon. Emmanuel K. Bedzrah,
Board Member (West Africa),
APNAC**

He underlined that Parliament has the conscious of the people and is expected to lead the people with integrity. Therefore, parliament should be the voice of the people. He shared the experiences of Ghana on maintaining integrity and taking their own integrity to establish accountability in their parliament.

First, the leadership of parliament. In Ghana, parliament speakers establish interaction with their citizens through breakfast forums. Citizens gathers in

appointed townhouses in every region in Ghana where they can express their concerns or asked questions regarding policies made by the Parliament.

Second, committee level. In this level, Parliamentarians shall invite people to share their opinions on programs or policies being proposed related to government agencies or ministries. Parliament Committees require the Parliamentarians to write report regarding various inquiries sent to ministries they are dealing with. The Parliament of Ghana has developed a mobile application that citizen can access to obtain information on every committee's activities in the parliament.

Third, Parliamentarians also required to declare their assets before and after their parliamentary term. The Parliament of Ghana has adopted a code of ethics for members and has established a committee to grant permission to their members who have other professions, aside from being MPs.

Lastly, Parliamentarians need to move outside to identify why accountability and transparency cannot work within the country, for example through a round table discussion with stakeholders to discuss what their intention are and how to work effectively against corruption.

Note:

The meeting was adjourned at 18:00 and resumed at 10:30 the next day.

Mr. Mohammad bin Mahdi Al-Ahbabi, Member of the Shura Council State of Qatar

Mr. Mohammad bin Mahdi Al-Ahbabi expressed that regardless of the shape and form of corruption, it is in the absence of transparency and integrity, as well as the weak oversight that corruption escalates. He stated that transparency, integrity, and accountability are interlinked. Other than that, the SDGs cannot be achieved in the absence of transparent, integral, and accountable institutions. He further explained that many efforts have been taken that made Qatar one of the most transparent and integral countries. He asserted that the fight against corruption cannot be undertaken alone but rather requires joint efforts from different entities, hence the establishment of numerous different institutions to ensure transparency, integrity, and accountability. Qatar learns from the experiences of neighboring or ally countries. Other than that, he explained that Qatari constitution stipulated that the standard of justice, ethics, morals, etc. are guaranteed.

He further defined accountability as the ability to provide, answer and be responsible. In the absence of accountability, corruption may increase.

He mentioned the commitments that Qatar has taken to increase accountability such as signing and ratifying conventions, signing partnership agreements, and having the

Amir of Qatar issue decrees and decisions which allow the establishment of the anti-corruption center. He ended his talk by expressing the willingness of the Shura Council to cooperate with the government, CSO, and citizen to develop the legal foundation that helps in fighting corruption. Other than that, he added a note where educating the young generation to raise awareness from the early stage is also important.

The Q&A

Bulgaria: Parliament has started to fight against corruption and established many measures and strategies to ensure effective legal framework and law enforcement. Bulgaria has put recommendations of Europe in Anti-corruption Law and adopt several laws as well as developing anti-corruption body. Further, young Bulgarian people have been educated with anti-corruption topics in the form of curriculum and interesting games activities.

Sierra Leone: The parliament has passed a law that encourages people access to all government reports from all ministries upon requests. The parliament has developed a forum and push open parliament initiatives to be implemented in the country. Looking forward to join OGP network initiatives

Indonesia: The high cost of democracy in Indonesia is caused by hoax and fake news distribution. The delegate looked forward to any possible solutions from the OGP to increase democracy quality in Indonesia.

Kuwait: GOPAC is a not place to extinguish fire. GOPAC is training process. GOPAC is place to trade and share experiences among its members. GOPAC expects parliamentarians to show integrity. There is no point of speaking anti-corruption if parliament cannot show integrity in their day to day life. The delegate expected that all members will open their national chapter of GOPAC in order to implement what they have learned from such conference. Express gratitude to Canada for supporting GOPAC initiatives.

Cameroon: The country has a very alarming perception index, and has welcomed the action of parliament against corruption. It is important for Cameroon to fight against corruption along with malnutrition. Corruption deems as vampire that sucks blood of the Cameroon citizens. A number of actions among them is raising awareness among people about bribery and corruption in public services. Thus, cooperation among civil society, government, and parliament is required. The delegate suggested that GOPAC needs to work closely with APNAC and Cameroon, also called all African countries to serve African people and fight corruption across the continent.

Cambodia: Fighting corruption is priority of the Cambodian parliament. However, challenges emerge for example is the tradition of giving money or gifts to relatives. Looking forward to manage this tradition not to cross with

the effort of fighting corruption in Cambodia.

Fiji: The country has established its own infrastructures and enacted relevant legislations. Fiji formed the Public Accountability Committee, which role in anti-corruption is central. The Committee may summon any witness to report those in authority. The Committee also requires government departments to submit annual reports. Public participation is important in supporting the works of the Committee. In addition, Fiji has enacted the Bill on Code of Conduct. The delegate mentioned that Ghana has introduced a similar Bill. The Accountability and Transparency Commission put the law in effect. With the advanced technology in society, the delegate argued that corruption will be more complicated. Therefore, it is important to maintain integrity, taking ownership, and upholding accountability.

Djibouti: Corruption is plaguing the country as there are many obstacles that preventing the people from developing. Corruption undermines economic growth and undermines national resources. It aggravates poverty and inequality among people. Since the ratification of UNCAC, the country continued to work on the penal code and promulgated Law No.1/1996 on anti-money laundering.

In the last 15 years, the country has established relevant bodies working against corruption, aimed at bringing justice to people. The law No. 56/2006

has called for good governance of institutions and set forth oversight bodies. The delegate reiterated the importance to shed light on the prevention of corruption. The cooperation mechanism in Djibouti has been very effective and has become part of Djibouti's national strategy in ensuring better prevention of corruption. The delegate called all Parliaments to acknowledge the role of non-state organizations or non-state actors such as NGOs in raising awareness on the consequences of corruption.

Rwanda: The country's achievement in anti-corruption has been acknowledged by Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. He quoted the President of Rwanda that "holding people accountable for corruption has a high political cost, but not as high as the cost of corruption itself." He further explained that Rwanda's history is marked by dictatorship, corruption, nepotism, discrimination, and genocide of 1 (one) million people. After the catastrophic event, the new government has put fighting corruption as a major pillar of development. Rwanda was the 48 least corrupt nation out of 175 countries, according to the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. Despite the achievement, Rwanda still faces some challenges. He reiterated the importance of partnership and appreciated the Global Conference for having created a platform to share best practices among the participants. To

combat corruption in a global village, concerted efforts among different countries and stakeholders are required.

Ukraine: The delegate shared Ukraine's experience in anti-corruption reform that has proven to be successful. In 2014, 40% of Ukraine's national budget was embezzled by organized crimes with impunity supported by the governmental system at all levels. Ukraine has set a comprehensive system with separate anti-corruption bodies, uphold laws on anti-corruption institutions, and introduced liability and asset disclosure for public officials. The delegate acknowledged that the lack of proper anti-corruption bodies impedes reform. Ukraine has established a non-political way in the appointment of leaders, brought international experts to help anti-corruption efforts in the country. As an outcome, the new anti-corruption regime has enjoyed the highest level of public trust, while showing its first results. The delegate stated that the most important dimension in anti-corruption is the international dimension as corruption and money-laundering are cross-border crimes. The delegate called stronger efforts for the global system to prosecute money launders and bring the enablers of corruption to justice. The delegate also emphasized that "there is no way of fighting corruption in the 21st century with 20th-century institutions."

Special Session:

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Excellence Award

The second plenary session was adjourned for a live streaming of the celebration of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Excellence Award, a global event which has previously held in various countries, and being organized in Rwanda on 9 December 2019, concurred with the international anti-corruption day, under the patronage of the Amir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani; and under the auspices of the Government of Rwanda.

The award will be presented to nominees who have demonstrated a strong willingness to fight systemic corruption and champion the message of anti-corruption among the people of the regions in which they operate.

The 4th edition of the award was held in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Qatar presented a sculpture to the event, a piece of art that resembles an open hand, which signifies openness and transparency as the core elements in the fight against corruption.

The awards were given to the following anti-corruption champions:

- 1) Dr. Maria Krambia-Kapardis
- 2) Dr. Alban Koci
- 3) Dr. Jean-Jacques Lumumba
- 4) Ms. Melody Zambuto
- 5) Mr. Matt Clark
- 6) Ms. Elnura Alkanova
- 7) Ms. Nathalie Dijkman
- 8) Mr. Connor Sattely
- 9) H.E. Dr. Kenneth Kaunda for his lifetime/outstanding achievement (Received by Ms. Cheswa Kaunda Silwizya).

DAY TWO

PARTNER SESSIONS

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy Supporting Parliaments to Combat Corruption

Mr. Devin O'Shaughnessy opened the session by giving a presentation on WFD's evidence review on effective parliamentary approaches to combatting corruption.

He explained that there is not much hard evidence found on what the most effective way for parliament to combat corruption is. He stated that parliament sits at the heart of the dilemma of combatting corruption. Parliament is prone to corruption yet it also plays a pivotal role. In the IPU's background paper on the role of parliaments to fighting corruption published in 2001, parliament's roles are through lawmaking, oversight, and representation. However, he explained that the evidence shows that it's not so simple.

He further elaborated the many evidence that is found effective in parliament's fight against corruption, namely: having local actors as the leader, longer-term fight, peer-to-peer rather than one-off learning, presence of pressure on parliament, approaching corruption-fighting from a more focused issue, developing independent

MPs and linking them with integrity advocates, higher autonomy, parliamentary support, better communication strategy for public engagement, building symbiotic relationship between parliament and relevant oversight bodies, bringing findings from oversight to live and passing it to media, increasing CSO's effectiveness, increase to formal powers is rarely required, and open formal parliamentary processes. He further stated the five institutional devices such as taxation laws, laws on meritocracy, universal education, gender equality, and good auditing.

He further explained the evidence gaps that need further research, which were: comparison between the impact of increased information of parliament and the impact of infomediaries, models of good collaboration, the success factors of parliamentary code of conduct, the factors that influence whether regional or international meetings lead to impact at home and if there are forms of civil society influencing that could be more effective. He concluded his presentation on WFD's evidence review by explaining the takeaways of the review such as there is a need to better understand the small successes, a need to further review the role of parliaments stipulated by the IPU to be more effective, and a need to try different approaches and tools and to adapt them over time.

There were 8 options proposed by the WFD to tackle corruptions, namely:

1. Strengthening parliament's own internal processes, capacity, and ethical codes.
2. Promoting greater independence of MPs (particularly from ruling party) and building cross-party links.
3. Invest in financial oversight capabilities and improved public financial management.
4. Establish a more effective anti-corruption regime.
5. Political/campaign finance reform and addressing the high cost of politics.
6. Increase citizen participation and external oversight of MPs/parliament.
7. Increase decentralization, providing greater resources and power to local level.
8. Invest in international and regional experience sharing and cooperation.

Afterwards, Mr. Devin O'Shaughnessy invited the participants to take up the group exercise by asking each delegate to choose one of the 8 options above that they think holds the most potential and discuss each option.

Fighting Fraud and Corruption in Development Projects: Islamic Development Bank Perspective

Mr. Ezzeddine Nciri explained that the concepts of integrity and combating corruption and fraudulent practices are

core values of the Islamic Development Bank Group. Based on these values, IsDB management recognized that resources management is fundamental to reduce property and support sound development of IsDB Group member countries and Muslim communities in other countries. In ensuring that IsDB Group funds are used for their intended purposes, in 2006 a task force of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) has adopted a "Uniform framework for preventing and combating fraud and corruption".

IsDB Group concerned about corruption and fraud due to the following:

1. It is difficult to tackle;
2. 68% of government expenditure turns into another into public contracts;
3. Corruption undermines the market and competition functionalities;
4. Corruption provides a leeway for decision-makers to abuse the system/power under their discretion;
5. Corruption harms individuals especially those living below the mid-income level.

In 2010, IsDB declared its intention to adopt the Framework and join Cross-Debarment Agreement. The aims were to learn the best practices of other international developmental institutions and harmonize IsDB procedures with such practices.

In order to be on par with the Framework, in 2010 IsDB Group adopted its Integrity Policy. Furthermore, IsDB

Group has created and Integrity and Ethics Department, prepare principles and guidelines for Departmental procedures and adopted Whistleblower and Witness protection policy.

Upon finding corruption or fraudulent activities during project implementation, the IsDB will reject the proposal, cancel the portion of the financing, declare the firm ineligible for a period of time, and conduct Audit and inspect their financial records. Regarding Whistleblower and Witness protection Policy, IsDB has some difficulties to implement the policy:

1. IsDB only deals with the project under IsDB financial support;
2. Investigation via administrative standard instead of criminal investigation;
3. Bank cannot put persons to jail but only debarring or blacklisting them;
4. Bank can only warn the government where the project officers come from.

In the future, IsDB will look forward to signing MoU with Multi-countries Anti-Corruption agencies, MoU with other partners such as IFIs/MDBs (Multilateral Development Banks) and conduct joint effort to fight corruption in development projects via Cross Debarment Agreement.

This session aimed to discuss experiences and new development in the fight against corruption in the MDBs' perspectives, explore possible cooperation opportunities, to establish

network with all participants as well as identify potential collaboration in the future.

The Q & A

Iraq: Are these IsDB loans also provided to private companies, what are the procedures to guarantee of loan payback from those companies. Does IsDB have projects to support parliamentarians in fighting against corruption which has gone rampant in Iraq?

IsDB Group is a collection of entities, one of them works together and deals with the private sector as well. However, the main objective of IsDB is to ensure that every project runs successfully for the development of its member countries. Hence it is not only for profit. Payback loan is given by state guarantees and the private sector doesn't have that. Therefore, in order to reduce the risk, IsDB conducts a rigid risk management process to ensure that the firm has high credibility to complete the project under the contractual agreement and the project itself continues to flourish after the contract is finished.

IsDB doesn't finance anti-corruption projects per country members. However, IsDB always pushes the integrity and ethics of the government project or contract implementation in Iraq. IsDB has many centers of excellence that provide capacity building and learning process required to reduce corruption in government development projects

Afghanistan: How is the IsDB impact so far for the country with poverty problems? How IsDB deals with countries that do not have rigid rules to fight against corruption.

IsDB has many grants or *hibah* programs to help countries with poverty problems. Since such grants were given without accounting or financial requirements and IsDB has no intention to make a profit from it, the funding of grants/*hibah* is under control and monitor by the Department Ethics of IsDB.

Indeed, the administrative way is very limited compared to full criminal investigations. The administrative standard to investigate corruption involve only what the contractual mandate mentions through the company under contract. IsDB is committed to fight corruption and usually, once found, will create a report about the misconducts that go to the related countries and ask local authorities to undertake necessary measures. Although ISDB will not intervene with those measures, IsDB has its own sanction, such as debarment and blacklisting of all people involved, for such criminal activities.

Malaysia: Islamic brand is very attractive to citizens; however bad administration often makes these banks prone to corruption and failure to make a profit to sustain the business. How IsDB can help to mitigate such risks of Islamic Bank in Malaysia

IsDB concerns the development of Islamic communities and member countries. IsDB works together with other MDBs, with the main objective is to reduce poverty and sustain the development of member countries. In order to facilitate better service quality and higher integrity ethics in serving their customers, IsDB may offer training and capacity building thru IsDB center of excellence in Malaysia.

Indonesia: Hon. Aziz Syamsudin asked if IsDB can help in pursuing and prosecuting corruptor and convicts that has transferred their assets to different countries with different legal framework used in Indonesia. He then continues on how IsDB usually monitors loans made by the private sector since sometimes private sectors loan some money from foreign banks.

IsDB can help to retrieve the stolen asset and willing to help Indonesia to solve the problems. Especially if those assets are transferred through banks of IsDB Group member countries. Regarding private sector loans, Mr. Nciri underlined that ADB and IsDB have developed a monitoring system for such loans and reports will be given to the related government where the project takes place.

Suriname & GOPAC Oceania: Parliamentarians often constrained by the lack of training and capacity. Asked if there is training or capacity building for parliamentarians to fight corruption.

Mr. Nciri answered that training programs have only started and begun

to work with other member countries. IsDB currently also develops Integrity funds to help fight against corruption in member countries.

Ghana: How IsDB conduct monitoring evaluation process especially for grants and loans use for different purposes.

Mr. Nciri realized that those phenomena often occur especially in the MDBs provided loans. Therefore, he urged that MDBs needs to need to check Private sector-related projects for time to time to monitor the use or spending of the money given.

Sierra Leone: Asked if Parliamentarians have access to reports developed by IsDB regarding government project proposal and implementation. Further asked if there is a more accessible/feasible financial model for African countries.

IsDB has its own department that evaluates and appraises some chosen projects with certain criteria. The evaluation results will be reported to the related government. Whether parliamentarians have access to such reports depends on the collaboration of government and parliament. Regarding the most suitable financial model for African countries, Mr. Nciri thinks that different development sector requires different model, some will require loans while others will be given as grants. Regardless of the country where the project comes from.

Kazakhstan: Looking for IsDB experiences in fighting corruption in certain countries in certain projects that involve the private sector.

Mr. Nciri answered that so far IsDB has worked together with Kazakhstan Ministry of Public Work to raise the stakeholders, employees and beneficiaries' awareness of corruption possibility in the Ministry's projects. However, IsDB can only monitor and evaluate certain projects which financed by IsDB. IsDB welcomes any opportunity given by the Kazakhstan government to go further in providing investigation, training or raising awareness in different projects in other ministries.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BIENNIAL ELECTION SESSION

The GOPAC 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was Chaired by Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon, accompanied by:

- Hon. Dr. Carlos Cuevas (Vice-Chair)
- Hon. Mr. John Hyde (Secretary)
- Hon. Mr. Romi G. Thakali (Member-at-large)
- Hon. Dr. Naser Al Sane (Member-at-Large)

The Chair informed that with an active member of 298 persons, the quorum shall be 29 members and at least 3 regional chapters present. At the 7th Global Conference, there were 49 members and 5 regional chapters present, and therefore, the quorum was reached. The meeting consisted of the following agenda:

1) Consider and adopt the agenda for the AGM

The AGM adopted the agenda.

2) Consider and adopt the minutes of the preceding AGM

With no objection, the AGM adopted the minutes of the preceding AGM.

3) Consider and adopt Chairman's Report and any reports by the Board

Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon has chaired GOPAC for two consecutive terms.

Under his leadership, the Indonesian House of Representatives has hosted GOPAC Secretariat in Jakarta to maintain the works of the organization in pioneering parliamentary efforts in fighting corruption. As a result, GOPAC can continue its membership and strengthen partnership with other institutions.

The AGM accepted the Chair's Report and the Report by the Board.

4) Consider and approve the Audit Committee's report and financial statements from the Board

The AGM accepted the Audit Committee's Report and the Financial Statement from the Board.

5) Consider and adopt any operational plan and budget (ensuing period)

The Secretary reported that the new board will prepare an operational plan and budget for the following 2 years.

The AGM agreed to support the operational plan and budget (ensuing period).

6) Consider and adopt any proposals correctly received to amend the Constitution and By-Laws

Three proposals to amend the Constitution have been received and proposed by the Board.

- a. To change the quorum from 10 percent to 5 percent.
- b. To increase the membership of the executive committee by 2 members.
- c. To delete article 9.2 of the constitution.

Following a discussion and several comments from the floor, the AGM decided to maintain the quorum requirement at 10 (ten) percent, agreed to delete article 9.2, and agreed to increase the membership of the executive committee by 2 members. Thus, the article 9.1 of the Constitution amended as following:

9.1. The Executive Committee is the administrative organ of GOPAC and shall be comprised of a Chair, *elected by biennial AGM*, ~~two~~ *three* Vice Chairs, a Secretary, a Treasurer and ~~two~~ *three* other members elected by the Board.

Note:

The following agenda were discussed in the second session, started at 14:30.

7) Reports by Regional Chapters

APNAC: The meeting was attended by 11 out of 24 member countries. Members of APNAC have agreed to strengthen partnerships with CSOs

and development partners to increase the capacity of its members. APNAC still facing several challenges: funding, leadership commitment, high turnover of MPS, and the capacity of MPs in the fight against corruption. Further, APNAC has exercised the following activities: Encourage other countries to establish their national chapters; Update database of its national chapters; Signed MOU with strategic partners; Strengthen collaboration with CSOs such as the WFD; Advocate Speakers of Parliaments to becoming Ambassadors of APNAC.

ARPAC: The Chapter has branches in Algeria, Tunisia, Bahrain, and Kuwait, as well as new chapters in Qatar, and Somalia. In the recent period, more than 55 Arab parliamentarians asked to join ARPAC. ARPAC focuses on different themes as well as have visited different Arab capitals, had partnerships with World Bank, organized workshops and seminar, worked on ethics on parliamentarians, organize, and focused on SDG 16. ARPAC discuss very specific topics through workshops. Currently, ARPAC's headquarter is in Beirut, but due to the country's instability, the headquarter will be moved to Kuwait.

GOPAC Latin America: The Chapter has had active participation by signing numerous conventions, which was an enormous challenge

because only 8 chapters out of 55 countries are formed. Another challenge is caused by different characteristics of the countries, such as between central and south America. GOPAC Latin America has established relations with CSOs and universities in order to fight together against corruption by getting certifications, implementing programs such as in Argentina and Brazil, and media activity. Other than that, different handbooks and guides have been integrated and translated to Spanish, as well as establishing close cooperation with a number of organizations. GOPAC Latin America looks forward to having support from international cooperation to carry on the activities in the national and regional chapters.

GOPAC Oceania: The Chapter has three countries present at the conference, which is why an amendment to the quorum in the constitution would be beneficial for GOPAC Oceania. GOPAC Oceania encourages its members to vote through the internet in lieu of mobilizing country to country. Capacity building is also one of the most important messages for GOPAC Oceania so that parliamentarians can deliver their work effectively and champion the goals and objectives of GOPAC. GOPAC Oceania plans to have a secretariat to work more effectively. GOPAC Oceania also acknowledged

the assistance from countries such as Indonesia, Kuwait, and Qatar. United Nations Pacific Region Anti-Corruption project was established with the help from UNDP and the government of Australia to take the forefront in organizing Oceania to be a stronger region in the fight against corruption

SEAPAC: The Chapter has members comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Timor Leste, Laos, Philippines, and Cambodia and will invite Singapore, Vietnam, and Brunei. SEAPAC's composition of the executive committee is Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon as chair, Hon. Mr. Datuk Haji Hasanuddin bin Mohd Yunus as vice-chair, Hon. Mr. Mardani Ali Sera as the secretary, and a member from Cambodia as the treasurer (name to be submitted later), and one representative from each country.

The AGM accepted the reports of the Regional Chapters.

8) Adoption of Declaration

The AGM adopted the Doha Declaration as the outcome document of the 7th Global Conference of Parliamentarians against Corruption.

9) Election of Chair of the Board (article 8.3)

The AGM unanimously agreed to elect H.E. Mr. Ahmad Bin Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, the Speaker

of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, as the new Chair of GOPAC for the period of 2019-2021.

10) Any other business

The AGM endorsed the list of nominations for the Board of Directors from the Regional Chapters.

The Presentation of “Champion of Corruption Award by APNAC”

During the first half of the AGM, on behalf of Kenya, APNAC and all Africans, Hon. Mr. Shakeel Shabbir (Chair of APNAC) took the opportunity to present the “Champion of Corruption Award by APNAC” to the following achievers:

- 1) Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon
- 2) Hon. Mr. Osei-Kyei Mensah-Bonsu
- 3) Hon. Dr. Naser Al Sane
- 4) Hon. Mr. John Hyde

REGIONAL CHAPTER MEETINGS

The meetings were held in parallel at 12.15-12.30 and 12.30-13.00 consecutively with ARPAC, APNAC, and Latin America meetings held during the first session, and SEAPAC, OCEANIA, and Regional Chapters in Development meetings held at the second session.

Arab Parliamentarians Against Corruption (ARPAC) Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Hon. Dr. Naser Al Sane and attended by the following members:

- Hon. Mr. Faisal Hussain Jabbar
- Hon. Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi
- H.E. Mr. Laitfi Ahmed Salah
- H.E. Abdelkader Chenini
- Hon. Mr. Said Mohamed
- Hon. Mr. Osman Ahmed
- Mr. Mbark Jmili
- Hon. Mr. Mohamed Rayhane
- Hon. Mr. Abdulkarim Mohamed
- Hon. Mr. Ali Hussein G. Ashal
- Hon. Mr. Ali Mohamed Al-Mamari
- Hon. Mr. Rachid Bahloul
- Ms. Belmouddene Fatima
- H.E. Ms. Maryama Boujemaa
- H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khayi
- Mr. Adil Behamza
- Mr. Mohd Abdallah Al Hamad Abu Hdeib
- Mr. Mohamed Elfaky
- H.E. Mr. Abdellah Bouanou
- Hon. Mr. Sakhar Ahmed Abbas Al-Wageh

- Mr. Mohammad Bin Mahdi Al-Ahbabi
- Mr. Mamdouh Saleh Hamad Abbadi
- Mrs. Majda M.A. Alfallah

The meeting discussed the following agenda:

Approving Minutes of Meeting

The meeting approved minutes of meetings distributed to the floor.

Membership

Hon. Mr. Naser Al Sane reminded the participants that there are some circumstances in which parliamentarians have been deprived of the right to politics, thus making the process of accepting new members slightly difficult for some chapters. In many chapters, new members are proposed by the national chapter with prior approval done at the national level. In the case of Somalia, the delegations explained that there aren't any chapters in Somalia thus when any members of parliaments attend international conferences, they would have to request membership to the local chapter first. The numbers of new members from proposed are as follows:

Egypt	: 2 members
Algeria	: 2 members
Somalia	: 2 members
Morocco	: 4 members

All names proposed were accepted. Delegates from Somalia promised to provide an update regarding their national chapter and the list of the new members in the coming weeks.

Inputs

Hon. Mr. Faisal Hussain Jabbar proposed for local chapters to have unified logos and slogans with ARPAC's. However, Hon. Mr. Abdulkarim Mohamed responded that due to the differences in each country's characteristics, he suggested for each chapter to have its own logo and slogan but still follow the general values that ARPAC holds.

Hon. Mr. Naser Al Sane explained the situation where many of the chapters were enthusiastic at the beginning but their activities declined afterwards. These may be because each parliamentarian has different priorities at home. He further stated that this affects the reputation of ARPAC. He called for recommendations and initiatives from the delegates to engage and relaunch chapter, and create new activities. He also proposed an idea to form a communication group to exchange ideas and inform news and activities so that ARPAC can assist in providing experts or parliamentarians from other chapters.

Hon. Mrs. Majda M.A. Alfallah proposed the idea to activate the Maghreb chapter of ARPAC, reactivate the Libyan chapter, hold workshops, and have countries supporting each other.

Hon. Mr. Sakhar Ahmed Abbas Al-Wageh stated that the members of ARPAC need to take home and spread the ideas to other parliamentarians. He further stated that ARPAC has to pay

attention to and embrace honest parliamentarians.

Hon. Mr. Mamdouh Saleh Hamad Abbadi explained the situation in which activities and initiatives need money. He also expressed his optimism regarding the new base of GOPAC in Qatar, which might influence the funding of the organization.

Hon. Mrs. Belmouddene Fatima expressed an idea that parliaments should provide the office for the local chapters, giving an example of the Moroccan parliament providing the office for the Moroccan chapter.

As the ARPAC treasurer, Hon. Mrs. Majda M.A. Alfallah expressed her pledge to communicate and ask for financing for regional financing should GOPAC receive financing. She also called the floor to hold events in each of their respective countries.

Mr. Naser Al Sane asked Hon. Mr. Mohammad Bin Mahdi Al-Ahbabi to give a closing remark. Hon. Mr. Mohammad bin Mahdi Al-Ahbabi wished for the future agendas and events to be successful and to have sufficient space for each delegate to act.

African Parliamentarians' Network Against Corruption (APNAC) Meeting

Hon. Emmanuel K. Bedzrah (Ghana) chaired the session. The regional session was attended by Parliament

members from Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya, Mali, Chad, Congo, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Rwanda, Central Africa Republic. The chair started by explaining the progress and challenges of APNAC since 2015.

In reality, APNAC started far before from GOPAC. The GOPAC constitution has been reviewed and the review should be continued today. For example, there is difficulty to recognize certain people of integrity to present at the board of GOPAC.

APNAC regularly conducts board meetings, the last meeting was held in Nairobi July 18 and March 19. APNAC has strengthened partnerships with international institutions such as AUABC, AFDB, GIZ, etc. APNAC has worked together with Berlin Labs to learn about the demography dividend. There were some efforts from National Chapters and involvement of APNAC secretariat.

- APNAC continuously updating its strategic plan according to the challenges faced. There was a lack of organization and leadership among APNAC members. There was also an attrition rate in African parliaments. Lack of capacity building and commitment from parliamentarians. Therefore, capacity building for APNAC members is very important. The current biggest challenge is funding because APNAC has not received any funding from Canada since 2014. The speaker calculated that almost 1 million USD is needed to establish new chapter.

- APNAC ways forward through research to create APNAC database, MoUs with strategic partners, and build an organization that becomes more visible and proactive as well as strengthening partnerships with current supporters and donors. APNAC should give better examples to GOPAC as all of APNAC members are parliament members. It is expected that each parliament members show integrity and passion to fight against corruption. In addition, GOPAC should distribute all information via APNAC secretariat and all local chapters to increase the recognition of APNAC as an international institution to combat corruption.

Comments and Suggestions

Nigeria: The delegate stated that APNAC makes Africa proud and shows the world how serious Africa is in combating corruption. The delegates expected to play a more active role in APNAC to fight against corruption.

Central Africa Republic: Amendment of GOPAC is required to represent the interests of Africa nations in combating corruption. Encourage fellow Africans to defend this cause in our area. The root of the problem is the capacity of the parliamentarians. There are other ways to increase capacity apart from attending international conferences or seminars. APNAC can prepare documents or publications and distribute the documents among their

members. This will become a tool and guideline for parliamentary members on their efforts to fight corruption.

Mali: The delegate asked to increase the chapters of APNAC to make a comprehensive effort in combating corruption. Nigeria's membership in APNAC will bring much more benefit as well. Mali expressed its commitment to support APNAC to open more chapters across African nations.

Cameroon: During APNAC GA has warned all fellow members that the journey against corruption is a dangerous one. Therefore, collaboration and working together with other nations or institutions will ease the danger. As mentioned by Kenya, holding a meeting that focuses on local chapter development is very important. The delegate stated that among the problem faced by APNAC are provision and funding as well as independence. However, it should not stop APNAC intention to develop as many branches as they can.

Rwanda: Expressed their commitment by showing a number of activities including capacity building, awareness-raising among the community to educate people on the importance of the fight against corruption.

Kenya: Suggested each chapter to develop a partnership with other institutions and then cascade it through sideways. Therefore, APNAC will benefit from such initiative as well.

Ghana: Regarding funding challenges, APNAC used to receive funding from

Canadian. Suggest that each APNAC members engage in fund sourcing. Expect each member to appoint focal speakers that will increase recognition of APNAC activities and become as the APNAC ambassadors to attract funding. Focus in what APNAC should do in following years apart from fighting against corruption. Building parliament as institutions and position its members to fight against corruption.

Congo: Suggested that local chapter can merge to reduce the expense and become a more efficient organization.

Lastly, the regional session also addressed the nomination of the APNAC representatives for GOPAC Chairperson and Board of Directors for a two-year term. The nominations were:

- Hon. Justin Muturi (Kenya), APNAC President
- Hon. Consolee Uwimana (Rwanda)
- Hon. Emmanuel K. Bedzrah (Ghana), Substitute member with Mr. Adji Ahmadou (Cameroon)

Latin America Meeting

GOPAC Latin America Chapter pledged its commitment to continue to upholding integrity to fight corruption and to continue strengthening the regional framework through various mechanisms to end corruption. Further, Latin America Chapter has exercised the following activities:

- Encourage active participation of its members in various anti-corruption movement all over the world;
- Signed several MoUs, including with the senate of the Republic of Mexico and the Committee of Integrity of Latin American Parliaments;
- Acknowledged an enormous challenge for Latin America, as only 8 chapters have been formed from 35 countries in the region;
- Expressed concern over the change of composition of MPs who were members of GOPAC;
- Established close cooperation with CSOs;
- Launched the Anti-Corruption Certification for GOPAC members from an institution in Luxembourg;
- Taken part in various media activities across the continent;
- Decided to start better work together with the existing and upcoming chapters;
- Planned to translate the GOPAC Manual into Spanish;
- Strengthened cooperation with international organizations;
- Sourced possible projects that enable Latin American members to work together;
- Increased GOPAC membership and list of observers;
- Looked for support from international corporations.

Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC) Meeting

SEAPAC session was chaired by Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon and attended by parliament members from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Cambodia. Regarding membership update, SEAPAC decided to endorse new membership and to invite from Singapore, Vietnam and Brunei Darussalam.

The regional session also addressed the nomination of the SEAPAC representatives for GOPAC Chairperson and Board of Directors for a two-year term. The nominations were:

- Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon (Indonesia)
- Datuk Haji Hasanuddin bin Mohd. Yunus (Malaysia)
- Cambodia name to be submitted.

Further, regarding the composition of SEAPAC General Assembly, it was decided as follows:

- Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon (Indonesia) as Chair
- Hon. Datuk Haji Hasanuddin bin Mohd. Yunus (Malaysia) as Vice Chair
- Hon, Ir. Mardani Ali Sera, M. Eng (Indonesia) as Secretary
- Cambodia name to be submitted.

Lastly, regarding the GOPAC Constitution, it was decided that future work and review of the constitution will be decided early next year in Jakarta.

Oceania Meeting

The GOPAC OCEANIA Chapter has exercised the following activities:

- Supported the decision of the AGM to maintain 10 percent requirement for a quorum;
- Committed to being more active and more corrective with their participation in GOPAC;
- Encourage its members to take part in voting by utilizing information technology;
- Continuously encouraging other MPs to join GOPAC membership;
- Looking at the possibility of establishing GOPAC OCEANIA office to be more organized;
- Acknowledged the role of Indonesia, Kuwait, and Qatar for their contribution towards GOPAC.

Regional Chapters in Development Meeting

Hon. Mr. John Hyde informed that there are two chapters that are currently in formation, namely the Caribbean and South Asian Chapter. GOPAC has also received a proposal to establish the Southern Europe Chapter.

DRAFTING COMMITTEE OF DOHA DECLARATION

The meeting was held at 13.15, chaired by Hon. Dr. Carlos P. Cuevas. Following a discussion and upon receiving several inputs from the delegates, the Drafting Committee agreed to propose the Doha Declaration to be submitted to the AGM for adoption.

The Declaration acknowledged that increasing public unrest and protests may lead to a deeper political and economic crisis. It emphasizes the role of Parliaments as the pillars of democracy, providing checks and balances to those in power.

The Declaration affirms that the highest standards of integrity matters for Parliament and Parliamentarians in exercising their duties. It calls Parliaments to adopt relevant measures and tools in developing parliamentary integrity, including through the following: enacting a set of rules on conflict of interest; ensuring financial transparency; applying code of ethics and conducts, and establishing the principles of inclusiveness through public participation in the decision-making process.

It recommends GOPAC, along with its Regional Chapters and all of its members to strengthen partnerships with relevant organizations, including civil society and individuals working to promote integrity, openness, transparency and good governance to attain the SDG 16.

The Declaration urges Parliaments and Parliamentarians to step up efforts in the engagement with UNCAC. The Delegates also express their appreciation to the outgoing Chair of GOPAC Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon for maintaining GOPAC as a pioneer in mobilizing parliamentary efforts against corruption, and to the Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani for his initiative to promoting anti-corruption movement globally, through the presentation of the Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Excellence Award.

CLOSING SESSION

Closing Remarks by H.E. Ahmad bin Abdulla bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, the Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, GOPAC Chair 2019-2021

H.E. Ahmad bin Abdullah extended his appreciation for electing him as GOPAC chair 2019-2021. He underlined that this election showed international appreciation towards his country and the Amir of Qatar in fighting corruption. He promises to work hard and together with all the members to achieve GOPAC goals. He will develop a plan, strategy for the organization to unite GOPAC's effort in combating corruption and its many forms.

He stressed that GOPAC requires all support from its members. GOPAC has a unique contribution to fighting

corruption and achieving SDG for future generations. He extended his gratitude and appreciation to Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon of Indonesia for his management, advice, and guidance in developing GOPAC to become a well-recognized global organization for fighting corruption. Further, he extended his gratitude to the Board of Directors, Regional and National Chapters for their work in establishing and supporting the organization.

Following the Closing Remarks, the Chair of APNAC Kenya Hon. Dr. Shakeel Shabbir presented a token of appreciation to the newly elected Chair of GOPAC.

CONCLUSION

The 7th Global Conference of Parliamentarians against Corruption has been successfully held with notable accomplishments. The plenary meetings have been able to gather key policy makers and experts to discuss the necessary means in achieving good governance and upholding integrity, the two most fundamental aspects in eliminating corruption.

All delegates shared comparable perspectives on the need to create a more open, accountable, and modern Parliaments in achieving the SDG 16, the standalone goal that lays the foundation of a peaceful, just, and accountable institutions that have the necessary capacities in not only tackling, but eliminating corruption at all sectors and all levels of society.

This is particularly important as the state of corruption globally has come to a critical point. It excludes the people from the freedom of expression, undermines democracy, hinders development, and diminishes the government's ability to provide proper public services for its citizens.

The participants also agreed that democratization in all regions should be strengthened, along with robust efforts to ensure transparency in the political processes of funding, campaigning, and voting. Stronger democracy provides more political stability through public participation and the formulation of inclusive policies.

The participants also shared similar concern over the value of integrity as a fundamental element in democracy. In addition, Members of Parliaments also need to stand for the principles of embracing accountability and taking ownership in local, national, and global efforts of fighting corruption.

While Parliaments have the necessary legitimacy to make the executive accountable, Parliaments also need to be credible. The overseer should be more superior in terms of integrity, accountability and transparency, than the scrutinized entity.

Through the open-ended Drafting Committee, all delegates agreed to adopt an outcome document that urges Parliaments to enact a clear set of rules on conflict of interests, financial transparency, code of ethics and conducts, and public participation in inclusive policymaking. The outcome document also mandates GOPAC, along with the existing and upcoming regional chapters and all of its members to develop synergy and strengthen partnerships with relevant organizations, including civil societies.

All delegates assured that under the leadership of the Speaker of the Shura Council State of Qatar H.E. Ahmad Bin Abdulla bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, GOPAC will continue to initiate, innovate, and revolutionize global parliamentary efforts against corruption.