



For Immediate Release

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News Release

Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)

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GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law. Based in Ottawa, Canada, GOPAC has 62 national chapters on 5 regions. GOPAC supports its members' efforts through original research, global anti-corruption capacity building, and international peer support.

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GOPAC Chair's Message

on the International Anti-Corruption Day 2020

"Recover with Integrity and Stand #UnitedAgainstCorruption"

Doha, Qatar – During the next phase of COVID-19, the role of parliamentarians is needed more than ever if countries are to Recover with Integrity.

This year's theme for International Anti-Corruption Day – Recover with Integrity – will not succeed unless parliamentarians are involved and active. Parliament is the ultimate institution to hold the government accountable to its people, especially during the pandemic. Since parliamentarians represent the people, they are required to set an example in the performance of their duties and should adhere to the moral values of their communities and comply with the highest standards of integrity.

Countries all over the world have taken major measures to cope with the ongoing pandemic by mobilizing resources necessary to address the health emergency, and to avoid a global economic collapse and avoid deep recessions.

In taking such emergency measures, some States may have relaxed safeguards by trading compliance, oversight and accountability for speed of response and achievement of rapid impact; thus, creating significant opportunities for corruption as never seen before.

Parliamentarians should be at the forefront in ensuring that recovery assistances are in place and delivered to those who are really in need, guaranteeing adequate protection to those who are in the first line of health duty, enabling comprehensive check on debt management, among many others. the emergency.

Last year in the 7th GOPAC Global Conference, parliamentarians from 53 countries unanimously adopted the [Doha Declaration](#) to reaffirm that integrity matters and urge parliaments to adopt measures and tools that are strongly relevant to the development of parliamentary integrity. Parliamentarians should continue upholding the integrity values in their oversight roles, especially in times of crisis.

GOPAC also calls for an increased oversight in COVID-19 potential vaccine procurements and distributions mechanism as this will provide incentives for the elected representatives when they are working to advance equitable access of safe and effective vaccines to the populations particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.



All these should be done so that no money falls into the wrong hands, the trickster who takes advantage of the crisis. In the exercise of such parliamentary roles, GOPAC calls global parliamentarians to take the lead by avoiding any conflict of interest and setting the highest degree of ethics to promote transparency and accountability for any executive actions during the emergency.

GOPAC affirms the notion of the Conference of the State Parties (COSP) of UNCAC Resolution 8/14 that parliament has crucial roles in preventing and combatting corruption both through legislation and oversight measures. Therefore, GOPAC stands ready to provide various [tools](#) and guidance towards improving oversight abilities through the Parliamentary Oversight Global Task Force ([GTF-PO](#)).

It is almost a year we have endured the pain of the pandemic. It is time to **Recover with Integrity** through the increased parliamentary roles during the pandemic. Let there be no dark corner for corruption at any time especially during this time of pain.

H.E. Ahmad bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud
GOPAC Chair
Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar

*GOPAC also actively involved in promoting parliamentarians' role in the anti-corruption global movement. See GOPAC contributions to the UN General Assembly Against Corruption (UNGASS) 2021 in [here](#).