

**Speech of**

**H. E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud  
Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar  
Chair of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians  
Against Corruption GOPAC**

**at the**

**Hearings Sessions of  
IPU and THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Doha on 5/7/ 1442 H  
Corresponding to: February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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**H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,**

**His Excellency Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union IPU,**

**H.E. Ms. Delia Ferreira Rubio, Chair of the Transparency International,**

**H.E. Ms. Ghada Fathi Wali, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,**

**May Allah's peace and mercy be upon you**

On behalf of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and on behalf of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, I am pleased to offer you all my best greetings and to wish for our meeting success in achieving the goals for which it is convened. The meeting will focus on "fighting corruption in order to restore confidence in governments and improve the prospects for development". I am also pleased to congratulate the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations for their coordination and continued cooperation. Some aspects of this cooperation and coordination are manifest in the annual meetings in the month of February each year. The meeting provides opportunity for UN bodies to communicate with parliamentarians and present the most important issues of concern to humanity. These sessions also provide an opportunity for parliamentarians to present their perceptions, opinions and proposals to find effective solutions to sensitive issues affecting the stability, security and peace of humanity.

I believe that the allocation of this year's sessions to discuss and combat corruption is a sound decision, given the importance of fighting corruption and establishing free societies. Corruption is truly a scourge that is ravaging societies and it may constitute an obstacle to development or become a factor of instability in some societies.

From here emerges the critical importance of the UN Convention against Corruption, which was approved by the UN General Assembly by its resolution 58/9 of October 31, 2003. The Convention identifies the forms of

corruption, the measures to be taken to prevent, criminalize it, and the penalties stipulated to deter it. The Convention as well emphasizes on international cooperation to combat it, through technical assistance, information exchange and procedures for the implementation of the Convention.

It is apparent that all segments of the society and all its institutions are invited to contribute to the great efforts required to combat corruption, and in the forefront comes the role of parliaments and parliamentarians because they have two fundamental roles. Through their competence to legislate and oversight, parliamentarians enact laws that prevent corruption, codify transparency and punish the perpetrators of these crimes. They as well can, through their competence to oversight; monitor the actions of governments, senior officials and all those who, through the exercise of official duties, can commit punishable crimes of corruption.

Hence, the importance of the role of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption, (GOPAC) which held its seventh conference in Doha on 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>, of December 2019, which unanimously elected me to serve as Chairman .

Immediately after my election as Chair, I pledged before the members of the Organization that my stewarding tenure would not be honorary, but full of activities and focus on the following aspects:

- Strengthening coordination and cooperation with the United Nations.
- Strengthening coordination and cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and international and regional parliamentary organizations.
- Expanding the base of parliamentarians who are members of the GOPAC Organization.
- Contributing to the preparations for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly Against Corruption.

- Doing everything that would support the efforts of international organizations and governments in the fight against corruption.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, which has negatively affected the activities of various international organizations, we, in the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption GOPAC, held through visual communication several meetings and we adopted the "strategy and programs of the Organization" for the years 2021 and 2022. We have also started holding meetings of our regional chapters. as last week the "Organization of Southeast Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption" held its meeting and the other chapters will follow suit. The regional chapters will hold regional meetings. Similarly, we began to expand the membership of the Organization through contacts with a number of Their Excellencies the Speakers of some parliaments.

We will ensure that the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption will make an effective and distinguished contribution to the upcoming Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on corruption. We intend to organize a meeting of parliamentarians participating in the UNGA Special Session.

Finally, I renew my desire to cooperate with the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other regional and international organizations to combat corruption and keep its scourge away from our societies.

I wish your sessions every success and rendering their continuous service to our communities and achieve the goals that we have set.

**May Allah's peace and mercy be upon you**