

Speech of

**H.E. Mr. Ahmed bin Abdulla bin Zaid Al
Mahmoud, Chair of GOPAC**

at the

**Plenary of the UN General Assembly Special
Session UNGSSS**

**On Challenges and Measures to Prevent and
Combat Corruption and Strengthen International
Cooperation**

**Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Delegates,
Fellow Parliamentarians all over the world,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

May Allah's peace and mercy be upon you

The best time for convening this Assembly is this time, whence all countries are striving hard to boost the recovery and speed up the COVID-19 vaccination. However, there are certain things that can potentially affect this process, such as the abuse of power by those who are in power and unchecked when they make use the public funds –wherever position they are. . . /2

Trillions of dollars are now being disbursed as a means of fiscal stimulus through numerous mechanisms, including tax incentives, vaccine procurement, social protection programs, and small business incentives, among many other mechanisms. It is a huge deal. At the time when we believe that stimulus is needed for economic recovery, we also need to ensure that these financial aids are delivered and received by those who are in dire need.

Delegates,

We recognise the roles of parliaments and parliamentarians in the exercise of their duties. These roles are getting even more

significant in this critical juncture. We cannot let trillions of dollars benefit only the few corrupt. Thus, Parliaments and Parliamentarians need to exercise their oversight fully to protect public funds from embezzlement and as well need to promote accountability for corrupt individuals.

It is an accepted norm is that parliament and its members are the guardians of public funds, who are responsible for good legislature, the key stakeholder of the budget estimates and their community's symbols of political honesty. Legislators in their capacities as political figures have a strong mandate in preventing and combating corruption through their roles. We are, as parliamentarians, should not be part of the problem, but rather we should be part of the solution.

As the only international network of members of parliaments, GOPAC calls upon the international community to strengthen cooperation and partnership with the parliamentarians to fulfil their commitment to international anticorruption standards. We welcome the upcoming agreed Political Declaration as a pledge document of all the Member States to work together and strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating corruption.

On this day, we renew our call to the international community to address the scourge of corruption, effectively implement their international corruption commitments and to take measures to promote transparent and accountable governance to help eradicate this global threat.

Thank You.

May Allah's peace and mercy be upon you.