

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. GOPAC has 57 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 UNGASS 2021 SIDE EVENT

“PARLIAMENT’S ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING UNGASS”

The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption has successfully held a panel side-event during the UN General Assembly Against Corruption on Wednesday, 2 June 2021. As UNGASS is tasked with agreeing on a concise and action-oriented political declaration, to implement key recommendations in the declaration, engagement with parliamentarians, who play a key legislative and oversight role, in progressing anti-corruption best practices and policy is required.

In his opening remarks, GOPAC Chair, H.E. Ahmad bin Abdulla bin Zaid Al Mahmoud stated that GOPAC calls upon the international community to strengthen cooperation and partnership with the parliamentarians to fulfill their commitment to international anti-corruption standards and 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.

The session was moderated by GOPAC Secretary, Mr. John Hyde and discussed parliamentarians' priorities for successful UNGASS implementation. GOPAC regional representatives shared their perspectives and views on the importance of UNGASS 2021 Political Declaration implementation based on each region's needs.

President of SEAPAC, Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon believes that parliamentarians must remain actively engaged, strategically empowered, and adequately equipped to assist in the fulfilment of all key recommendations in the declaration.

Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu defines that parliaments are the gatekeepers of public finance, parliament and parliamentarians have to scrutinize government proposals and ensure that the demand of government meets the development needs of the people. Hon. Emmanuel Kwesi Bedzah from APNAC added that there should be exchange programs on sharing best practices between one parliament to the other should be encouraged, including the matter of budget office and also monitoring and evaluation issues.

GOPAC Latin America President, Dr. Carlos Alberto Perez Cuevas emphasize that It is necessary to strengthen anti-corruption works especially during, this COVID-19 crisis, the parliamentarians of the world, particularly in Latin America are committed to continuing to work against corruption and will develop agenda of virtual meeting, or if possible face-to-face meeting to be able to build new laws, institutions, good practices, integrity handbook, parliamentary work manuals, transparency actions, and accountability.

According to Dr. Sonja Stefanovska, UNDP Anti-Corruption adviser with the UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UNPRAC) Project, Pacific parliamentarians were already working with GOPAC Oceania and UN-PRAC to adopt a regional anti-corruption roadmap called “Teieniwa Vision” and commended GOPAC Oceania on its active role in implementing Teieniwa Vision, UNCAC and now UNGASS 2021.

Ms. Annika Wythes, Regional UNODC Anti-Corruption adviser with UN-PRAC, concluded the session by emphasizing that Parliamentarians are part of the solution, and that the implementation of the UNGASS 2021 Political Declaration needed parliament support and active engagement of Parliamentarians so that it can be implemented properly.

GOPAC invites fellow members and parliamentarians to stay engaged and contribute to the implementation of the Political Declaration of the UNGASS 2021.

GOPAC Secretariat