

REPORT ON GOPAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: WILTON PARK, UK, JUNE 9, 2004

Participants:

- John Williams, Canada-North America, Chair
- Naser Al-Sane, Middle East North Africa
- Edgardo Angara, Southeast Asia
- Valeri Galchenko, Russian Federation
- Cesar Juaregui, Latin America
- Mary King, Caribbean
- Musikari Kombo, Africa
- Volodymyr Stretovych, Newly Independent States

- Martin Ulrich, GOPAC Executive Secretary

Observers:

- Meenakshi Dhar, CPA
- Mwalimu Mati, TI Kenya
- Andrew Rowe, former UK parliamentarian
- Keith Schulz, USAID
- Rick Stapenhurst, WBI

Note: On June 8 an informal meeting of Board members present, chaired by the Hon Musikari Kombo, provided an occasion for participants to update their colleagues on developments in their chapters. The three members not present at this meeting (John Williams, Naser Al-Sane, and Valeri Galchenko) provided brief updates at the June 9 formal meeting.

Chair's Message: The Chair reviewed progress since the Conference creating GOPAC in October, 2002. Particular attention was devoted to the GOPAC global working group on the UN Convention Against Corruption, which – co-chaired by Senator Edgardo Angara of the Philippines and the Hon Londa Esadze of Georgia. Senators Angara and Juaregui (of Mexico), who also attended the signing ceremony in Mexico, provided observations.

The Chair also provided his personal observations on the growing importance of parliamentary oversight as a constraining influence on corruption and the important role GOPAC can play in helping parliamentarians play this role more effectively. In his view, the GOPAC approach of strong independent chapters working together to deliver

measurable results remain the right vehicle. He concluded with the need to engage the Executive Committee more actively as GOPAC moves from initial development phase to focusing on delivering results – reducing corruption and building integrity in governance.

The meeting.
then addressed the substantive issues on the agenda.

Confirming Regional Chapter Membership in GOPAC: The GOPAC Constitution provides for two classes of regional chapter membership in GOPAC: a) fully developed; and b) in formation. The Secretariat provided a briefing on criteria and indicators for both classes that could be used by the Board in their determination of the appropriate classification of a regional chapter. There was broad support for the proposed criteria, and suggestions to improve the wording on the criteria. Annex A to this report provides an updated articulation.

This articulation is not intended to be interpreted as final, but rather a working draft that will be tested at the next formal face-to-face meeting of the Board, planned for late 2005. Chapters can also use the criteria and indicators as a guide to assessing their development from this perspective.

GOPAC Membership Issues: Two issues were discussed: a) steps to take to deliver on the commitment at the 2002 Conference to provide for membership of parliaments; and b) procedures to maintain documented and updated individual membership and a harmonized approach to membership fees. In both cases, the Chair's proposal that these matters be referred for detailed study to an Executive Committee team, headed by the Secretary, was accepted. Discussion focused on guidance the Board wished to provide to this team.

The following points were offered as considerations on membership of parliaments:

- parliaments should have to meet some standards – either on entry to GOPAC or over time – to justify membership, perhaps analogous to the private members code of conduct included in the GOPAC constitution;
- membership of parliaments should require renewal after general elections; and
- the potential of using membership of parliaments as one source for sustainable funding of GOPAC should be studied.

The following points were offered as considerations on individual memberships:

- there should be a global policy on individual memberships – ensuring up-to-date shared information on all members – and fee structures, keeping in mind the need to provide adequate scope for regional chapters to tailor fees to their circumstances;
- while fees from individual memberships should not, in most cases, be seen as a major source of funding, there should be sharing among country, regional and global levels;
- keeping fees low to encourage membership;
- consideration should be given to establish procedures for the application of a code of conduct linked to membership.

Supporting the Implementation of the UNCAC: The central importance of this initiative and GOPAC's involvement was confirmed. It was noted that the GOPAC Secretariat is continuing to pursue funding for both the GOPAC UNCAC team and that of a separate team, led by Roy Cullen of Canada, to look at international matters – particularly related to money laundering and recovery of assets.

Senator Angara, who along with the Hon Londa Esadze of Georgia, has been leading the initiative elaborated on the proposal. Annex B provides an updated description of the proposed approach.

Establishing the GOPAC Executive Committee: Two steps were taken at the meeting. The first was to formally elect members to the specific positions on the Board and for the Chair together with each Executive member to clarify how each member can play an active role in managing GOPAC and its programs. The Executive, to hold office until the Board meeting planned for the next GOPAC Conference, is:

John Williams, Canada-North America: Chair

Hon Musikari Kombo, Africa: 1st Vice Chair

Dr Naser Al Sane, Middle East North Africa: 2nd Vice Chair

Hon Con Sciacca, Australasia: Secretary

Senator Cesar Juaregui, Latin America: Treasurer

Senator Edgardo Angara, Southeast Asia

Senator Mary King, Caribbean

The Chair will communicate with each member to confirm the active management roles each will play in managing GOPAC, consistent with its constitution, priorities, resources and decisions of the Board of Directors. The agreed roles will be communicated to the Board and membership as soon as completed. Items mentioned at the meeting included:

- The Secretary to lead an initiative to address the membership issues
- The Treasurer to develop an approach to sustainable funding
- The two Vice Chairs to work together to arrange for the planned 2005 Conference .

Resolutions: Two specific resolutions were accepted.

1. Proposed by Musikari Kombo and seconded by Edgardo Angara, that the Board authorize the Executive to commence work to seek a location of the bi-annual conference of GOPAC to be held in 2005 and to commence planning and funding of same. (accepted)
2. Proposed by Musikari Kombo and seconded by Volodymyr Stretovych, that PriceWaterhouseCoopers be the auditors of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 and that the appointment continues until rescinded by the board of Directors of GOPAC. (accepted)

Closing: No further issues being raised by Board members, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1650 (UK time).

Prepared by: Martin Ulrich
Executive Secretary
June 24, 2004

ANNEX A: CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR DEVELOPED AND FORMATIVE GOPAC REGIONAL CHAPTERS

Developed Chapter: A regional chapter, to be accepted as developed by the GOPAC global Board of Directors, must meet three broad criteria:

- a) ***a financially viable and credible organization***, as indicated by: i) a constitution consistent with the GOPAC mission and incorporation as a legal entity; ii) a significant and representative membership over its region that accepts a code of conduct consistent with that in the GOPAC Constitution; iii) an approach to financing that is sustainable; and iv) a credible and competent secretariat to administer its affairs;
- b) ***demonstrated anti-corruption results***, indicated by: i) existence of a 3-5 year plan of parliamentary anti-corruption initiatives; ii) participation in at least one global GOPAC initiative – such as supporting the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption and regional equivalents; and iii) an alliance with one or more credible regional multi-lateral governance organizations; and
- c) ***information sharing with the GOPAC family***, as indicated by: i) sharing with the GOPAC Secretariat information on regional Board/Executive decisions and activity, as well as membership information; ii) annual reporting of results to be incorporated into a global GOPAC report on performance; and iii) acceptable practices to alert the GOPAC Chair and Board on incidents in the regional chapter that risk GOPAC’s global credibility.

Formative Chapter: A regional chapter, to be accepted as in formation by the GOPAC global Board of Directors, must meet two criteria;

- a) ***committed leadership*** as indicated by lead parliamentarian working with a small core group of colleagues committed to form a developed chapter; and an agreement with the GOPAC Chair to do so;
- b) ***credible plan of action*** as indicated by initial agenda of steps to take, including the extension of the network of members, and the support of an interim secretariat.

ANNEX B: PROPOSED APPROACH TO GOPAC SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Note: The approach described is conditional on finding support for the work of the two proposed GOPAC Global teams and agreement by two or more GOPAC regional chapters to undertake their portion of the activity. In absence of full funding, the initiative will be pursued, but more modestly and slowly.

GOPAC Perspective: While supporting ratification, GOPAC would focus on effective implementation – that is, treating the UNCAC provisions as benchmarks or standards to be achieved and tracking their effectiveness.

Implementation: Three steps are envisioned:

- ***In-country components*** would be led by the GOPAC global UNCAC team working actively with regional chapters. General briefing and training material would be prepared on: i) the provisions of the UNCAC (plus regional) anti-corruption conventions; and ii) the roles parliamentarians can play in promoting anti-corruption. Such global materials would require:
 - a) tailoring available materials to a parliamentary audience and regional situations and priorities – with *regional chapters*;
 - b) outreach to countries to deliver training and encourage action – with *regional chapters*;
 - c) encouraging implementation in individual countries of key anti-corruption provisions – with *country chapters, other organizations, and individual members*.
- ***Anti-money laundering and asset recovery*** provisions – the international portions of the UNCAC – would be pursued under the guidance of a new global GOPAC Anti-Money Laundering team.
- ***Monitoring country progress*** is a key component of effective implementation and it is proposed that parliamentarians be involved. With this in mind GOPAC would develop an approach to monitoring and reporting by parliamentarians in consultation with appropriate UN offices, other organizations committed to monitoring implementation – such as Transparency International. This step would be addressed by the GOPAC UNCAC team or by another new GOPAC team.