

DRAFT

**CONSTITUTION, RULES & REGULATIONS
OF THE PALESTINIAN LOCAL BRANCH**

**PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST
CORRUPTION**

2005-03-20

DRAFT

CONSTITUTION, RULES & REGULATIONS

OF THE PALESTINIAN LOCAL BRANCH

PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION

FOUNDING DECLARATION

We affirm the right of parliament to be an institution that holds the government accountable and answerable. We realize that corruption represents a grave danger that threatens the prosperity of peoples and the development of their societies. We are appalled by the fact that corruption diverts the meager resources away from meeting basic human needs and undermines trust in the integrity of our institutions. We are concerned about the necessity of developing sound and balanced relationships between the state and the civil society and the necessity of strengthening the role of parliaments as active institutions that hold those in charge of policies and government actions accountable. We understand that corruption could be fought through enhancing the systems of accountability, transparency and public participation in the process of governance. We realize the importance of gathering parliamentarians for the purpose of laying a leadership strategy, exchanging information, experiences and lessons and formulating initiatives that aim at strengthening parliaments in their fight against corruption.

We reaffirm our commitment to enhance the legislations for the purpose of strengthening the society and supporting transparency and accountability through the establishment of the National Branch (Palestinian Parliamentarians against Corruption). We desire to join the organization and the regional branch affirming transparency and democracy in actions and seeking to gather current and former parliamentarians who are committed to fight corruption, to formulate a national strategy, to monitor the national development, to encourage the building of a wide coalition against corruption and to follow a specific charter that conforms to the charter of the organization and that does not contradict its goals and purposes.

By virtue of this document, we hereby resolve to establish the Local Branch for Parliamentarians against Corruption, as a tool that enhances the efficiency of Parliament, in its capacity as the frontline in confronting corruption.

CHARTER OF THE LOCAL BRANCH

ARTICLE (1): NAME OF THE BRANCH

"Palestinian Parliamentarians against Corruption" Group

It is the national branch for the worldwide organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption. It is to be established as per the laws of Palestine.

ARTICLE (2): HEADQUARTERS OF THE BRANCH

Headquarters: **Jerusalem**

ARTICLE (3): NATURE & OBJECTIVE OF THE BRANCH

Palestinian Parliamentarians against Corruption is a local non-profit organization that aims primarily at mobilizing the efforts of parliamentarians to fight corruption and to enhance transparency & accountability, in order to ensure the highest standards of integrity in public dealings.

The organization: Palestinian Parliamentarians against Corruption seeks to:

- 1) Work in co-operation with national regional branches in order to set behavioural standards that lead to the enhancement of transparency, accountability and good governance.
- 2) Enhance the commitment of Parliament and build its capabilities in exercising accountability, enhancing the rule of law and making state institutions efficient and accountable.
- 3) Develop the capabilities of parliamentarians in order to oversee the activities of governments and other public institutions, and to become better able to hold them accountable.
- 4) Encourage and facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences between its various members in relation to the lessons and best practices that are relevant to the anticorruption measures.
- 5) Encourage parliamentarians to strike legislations that aim at enhancing good governance, transparency and accountability.
- 6) Reinforce measures that aim at dealing efficiently with corruption and increasing public awareness of corruption at all levels of the society.
- 7) Make parliamentarians and policy makers aware of the causes, nature and methods of fighting corruption.
- 8) Promote the incorporation of anticorruption measures into all programs and actions of governments in order to enrich the capabilities of national and regional establishments in the effective adoption of anticorruption plans.
- 9) Communicate and co-operate with international organizations, parliamentary institutions, civil society and other organizations in relation to various matters that aim at enhancing good governance, transparency and accountability.

ARTICLE (4): MEMBERSHIP

- 1) Full membership is granted to any Palestinian parliamentarian -after completing the application form to join the organization and the membership form- who is willing and committed to work in accordance with the organization's bylaws and objectives. Membership is subject to the approval of the organization's Board of Directors.
- 2) Annual membership fee is to be set by the Board of Directors and is to cover the fiscal year from January 1st to December 31st.
- 3) Membership in the Arabic Organization (the Regional Branch) is acquired upon approval by the national branch.

ARTICLE (5): LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS

- a) Members of the organization shall lose their membership status through death, dismissal or resignation from the organization.
- b) Any member wishing to resign from the organization must submit a written request to the Board of Directors to this effect.
- c) All members must not engage or be involved in any action that is inconsistent with the values defended by the national branch.
- d) Every member should avoid any current or potential or perceived conflict of interest.

ARTICLE (6): THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 1) Members shall elect an executive body every year (the Board of Directors), made up of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and two Members. The Board shall meet periodically as it deems suitable and appropriate. It shall have the right to call the members to periodic meetings.
- 2) The Chairman may not remain in his office for more than two terms.
- 3) The Board shall have the competency to decide in any matter that is pertinent to the organization as well as the competency to oversee the enforcement of its resolutions, in harmony with the organization's goals and objectives.
- 4) The quorum for the meetings of the Board shall be made up of one half of the members.
- 5) Founding members shall occupy temporary offices in the organization pending the election of the Board.
- 6) Decisions of the Board shall be taken by the majority of votes. Each member shall have one vote. In case of a tie, the vote of the Chairman shall be the tie breaking vote.
- 7) Meetings and resolutions of the Board shall be recorded in written minutes signed by the Chairman.
- 8) Membership in the Board of Directors shall not extend for more than two years.
- 9) The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the various matters that are pertinent to the organization with the exception of those matters or tasks that are specifically assigned to other bodies.

The Board of Directors shall have the following duties:

- a) Receiving all applications of affiliation with or membership in the organization.
- b) Proposing the annual agenda and the budget of the organization to the Board.
- c) Organizing the calendar of activities in participation with the organization and other national branches.
- d) Acting as an official communication channel for the organization.
- e) Facilitating and fostering communication between members.
- f) Entering into contracts on behalf of the organization.