

DRAFT DECLARATION
3nd FORUM FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

Conference of the States Parties
Doha, Qatar, November 10, 2009
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WE THE PARLIAMENTARIANS (The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption and other participating parliamentarians) gathered in the third forum, parallel to the 3rd Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter, CoSP or the Conference) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (hereinafter, UNCAC or the Convention) in Doha, Qatar on November 10, 2009;

ARE DEEPLY AWARE of the enormous negative impacts of corruption on people and institutions, the global nature of the problem and of our responsibilities as parliamentarians to serve the public interest, including the responsibilities set out under the Convention;

ACKNOWLEDGE AND COMMEND Member States of the United Nations for adopting the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), ratified by [136 parties - number to be confirmed closer to event];

BEING INFORMED of the rich debate of the Conference on the establishment of a mechanism to review the implementation of the Convention with a particular emphasis to be placed on the prevention of corruption;

RECALLING the 2006 Forum of Parliamentarians at the Conference of States Parties at the Dead Sea, Jordan which identified complementary steps parliamentarians could take, such as strengthening parliamentary oversight and parliamentary ethical conduct; and the 2008 Forum of Parliamentarians at the Conference of States Parties at Bali, Indonesia which identified ways that parliamentarians could support, in a sustained manner, the implementation of governance improvements needed to prevent corruption;

NOTING that prevention of corruption – in large measure depends on good and accountable governance – is central to parliamentarians’ constitutionally defined responsibilities for representation, legislation and oversight;

WE THEREFORE COMMIT TO SUPPORT THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF UNCAC BY CARRYING OUT THESE RESPONSIBILITIES CONSISTENT WITH THE OBLIGATIONS as set forth in the Convention by:

- **engaging citizens and civil society** in our countries, representing their concerns and helping them develop an understanding of the negative effects of corruption and the importance of effective implementation of the UNCAC, and related international conventions;
- **working with the executive branch of governments** to make UNCAC a way of life by embedding its provisions in legislation and domestic governance practices and values, and where the passage of legislation is required, help develop coalitions to support such legislation;
- **supporting the executive branch** in assessing the effectiveness of implementation through parliamentary hearings and review of government documentation related to implementation;

- **working with international expert and donor agencies** to support the UNCAC, including but not limited to tailoring their technical assistance to implement governance improvements – including those within parliament itself – related to effective corruption prevention;
- **improving parliamentary financial oversight** of public resources and ensuring appropriate checks and balances for the work of anti-corruption agencies;

IN SUPPORT OF THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF UNCAC WE CALL UPON

- the **Conference of States Parties** to include a Forum of Parliamentarians as a continuing complement to the future Conferences of States Parties, thereby recognizing the important role of the parliamentary branch of government in implementing the provisions of the Convention and combating corruption;
- with respect to the UNCAC, individual **States Parties**, to
 - ratify the Convention where they have not yet done so;
 - fully implement it and adopt and participate in the review mechanism to assess the implementation of this Convention in conjunction with their national parliament; and
 - where their Constitutions permit, to include parliamentarians as members of their delegations to the Conference of the States Parties and its working groups;
- **donor agencies and development assistance organizations** to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians to support UNCAC by facilitating the formulation of tools and the holding of knowledge-sharing events; recognize the benefits of parliamentary financial oversight and transparency;
- **GOPAC**, a co-organizer of the first three Forums for Parliamentarians held in the context of the Conferences of States Parties, to:
 - a) promote institutional and personal behaviour of parliamentarians consistent with international standards for ethical conduct and for carrying out their constitutional responsibilities;
 - b) establish partnerships with international organizations and others to work together on enhancing the knowledge and capacity of parliamentarians in preventing corruption
 - c) engage its members in documenting and publicly reporting on important prevention improvements in countries where it has members;
 - d) learning from parliamentary colleagues world-wide, documenting and adopting good practices;
- **other international parliamentary organizations** to similarly support the effective implementation and review of the UNCAC.