

The Organization

A global network of parliamentarians organized regionally to provide a credible voice for integrity in governance and to combat corruption.



"As Parliamentarians, we are responsible for holding our governments to account and controlling corruption."

-Mr. John Williams, MP
Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts,
House of Commons
Canada

EXECUTIVE

John WILLIAMS, Canada,
Chair

Musikari KOMBO, Kenya

Naser AL SANE, Kuwait

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GOPAC was created at the October 2002 Global Conference in Ottawa, Canada. The conference was supported by the Parliament of Canada, the World Bank Institute, and the Canadian International Development Agency. Over 170 parliamentarians from over 60 countries participated.

Incorporated under Canadian law as a not-for-profit organization, GOPAC is guided by a global Board of Directors selected by regional chapters. The Board's Executive Committee is chaired by John Williams, Member of Parliament, Canada and Chair of the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons.

GOPAC has a professional Secretariat based at the Parliamentary Centre that supports the Executive and Board, undertakes programming and communications, and manages GOPAC finances. The Parliamentary Centre, a Canadian not-for-profit organization, has over 30 years experience in serving parliamentarians around the world.

The Program

Working together, informed by experts, to develop practical initiatives on issues and to combat corruption.

Global Initiatives

The GOPAC approach is to attack the scourge of corruption with specific initiatives that have clear measurable results. For example the *Anti-Money Laundering Initiative* (AMLI) creates a task force to interact with the experts working in the field, such as the Financial Action Taskforce (FATF), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

GOPAC informs and communicates with its members on the progress of projects and products. GOPAC supports the creation and implementation of international Treaties, Conventions and Accords on the issues such as money laundering.

Regional Initiatives

Parliamentarians in the regional chapters work towards fighting corruption through mutual support and knowledge sharing.

Regional Chapters identify opportunities to implement international and regional accords and treaties in their area of the world and strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians to fulfill their oversight role in parliament. Examples of possible activities include ensuring Supreme Audit Institutions, such as the Auditor General, work towards greater transparency and accountability in the system as well as training programs for new parliamentarians on issues of accountability.

National Initiatives

Helping individual members within their own countries to combat corruption requires the development of special tools and training.

In addition to maintaining an updated handbook on parliamentarians and anti-corruption, special initiatives are underway or planned for: anti-money laundering; training for new parliamentarians; budgetary oversight; election financing; and codes of conduct for parliamentarians. In each of these cases, global teams of parliamentarians will work with experts or expert organizations to develop the products.

The Funding

GOPAC intends to deliver its core program for \$300,000 US per year, funded for a minimum of three years by a consortium of government development agencies. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the World Bank Institute have already committed to support GOPAC and additional funding is being sought from other development assistance programs. Funding covers Secretariat operations. GOPAC members are not financially compensated for their time.

■ GOPAC seeks separate funding for specific product development initiatives such as the *Anti Money Laundering Initiative* (AMLI) in addition to annual Board meetings, its bi-annual conference, and for developing its website capacity.

■ GOPAC is cultivating alliances with organizations such as: the IMF, the World Bank, OAS, and the UN; the regional development banks; and NGOs such as Transparency International. The intent is to add value to existing initiatives and organizations.



The Chapters

Regional and national chapters exist in all parts of the world.

GOPAC's regional chapters work within a local and regional context, to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians to address issues of corruption and promote good governance. The GOPAC Secretariat serves as the global point of contact for GOPAC and its regional and country chapters.



GOPAC's chapters are as follows:

Africa: African Parliamentarian's Network Against Corruption (APNAC) [*covering the Sub-Saharan region*]

National sub-chapters: Chad, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe

North East Asia: North East Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (NEAPAC)

National sub-chapters: Republic of Korea

South East Asia: South East Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC)

Middle East: Arab Parliamentarians Against Corruption (APAC) [*under development*]

Europe: GOPAC Europe

Russia: Parliamentarians for Parliamentary Control (PPC)

Newly Independent States of the Former Soviet Union: Newly Independent States (NISAPAC) [*under development*]

Sub-regional chapter: Caucuses

North America: North American Parliamentarians Against Corruption (NAPAC)

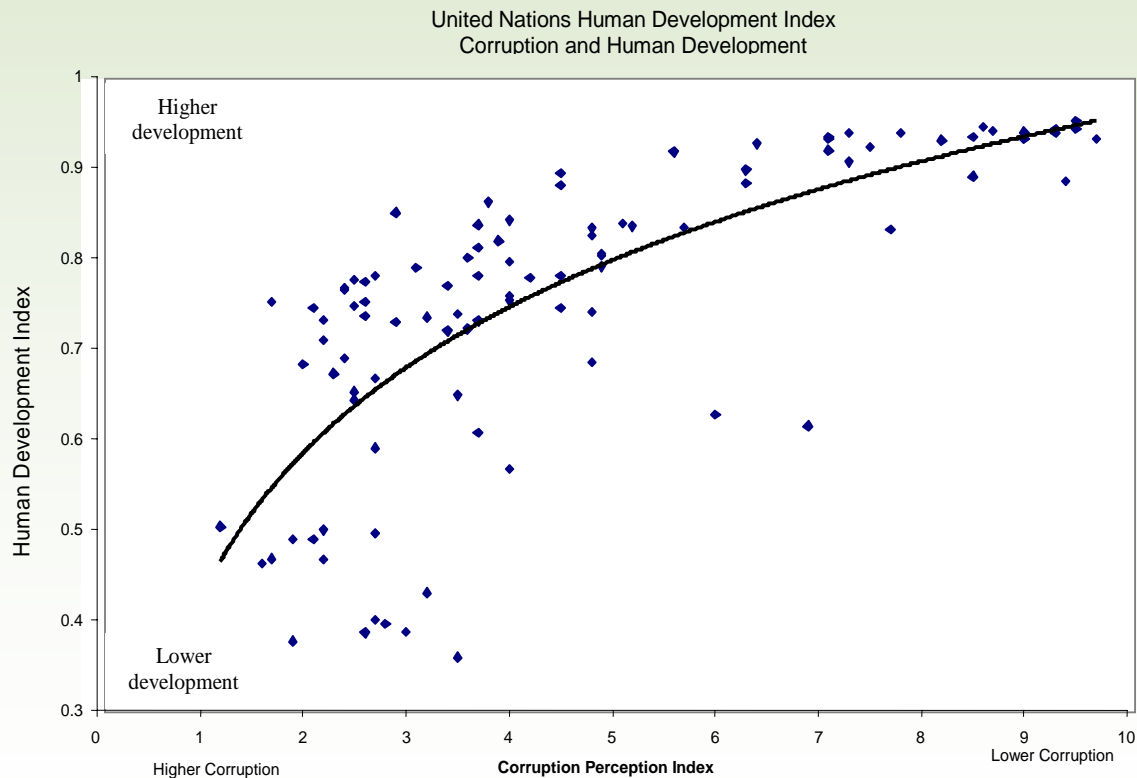
National sub-chapters: Canada

Latin America: Latin American Parliamentarians Against Corruption (LAPAC)

Development and Corruption

Corruption is not only an issue of right and wrong; it destroys wealth, security, social services, and confidence in the practical value of democratic governance.

The association between high levels of corruption and low levels of economic development are well known. The following chart illustrates the correlation between corruption - as represented by Transparency International's recent Corruption Perception Index - and the United Nations Human Development Index.



The Website

The web site will provide parliamentarians with the information, the training materials and the means to deliberate and reach consensus in combating corruption.

Our website serves four roles...

1. Leadership:

GOPAC Board and Executive activity, news and events.

2. Information:

Provides members with information resources and GOPAC Programming.

3. Deliberation:

Teams of parliamentarians and experts working together on issues and tools for members.

4. Connectivity:

Links to chapters, colleagues and related organizations.

The GOPAC website has core capacity to provide information and the space for members and experts to discuss key issues.

The next step is to provide a basic level of information on the site and to test and develop the protocols for effective deliberation.

Visit the GOPAC Website at www.gopacnetwork.org