



August 31, 2006

Mr. Frank Swedlove  
President  
Financial Action Task Force  
FATF / GAFI  
2, rue André Pascal  
75775 Paris Cedex 16  
FRANCE

Dear Mr. Swedlove:

Congratulations on your recent appointment to the Presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Your distinguished service in the Canadian Federal government will no doubt serve you well in your new position. We wish you well.

We represent the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), an international network of over seven hundred members of parliament in over seventy countries. It is the basic objective of GOPAC to make parliaments work as effective institutions of oversight of their governments, and to fight corruption. Corruption and money laundering are viewed by GOPAC and its members as unjust, de-stabilizing and economically inappropriate activities that wreak havoc on a country and its inhabitants.

We believe that the mission and objectives of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) are highly compatible, and we seek closer cooperation and collaboration. To be more specific, GOPAC respectfully requests that it be granted observer status at the Financial Action Task Force.

The following is a brief summary of GOPAC and its focus. More information can be obtained from our web site <http://www.gopacnetwork.org>. To achieve our objective, we have three agendas that form the bedrock of the organization:

- 1) *Peer support of parliamentarians* who are engaged in the fight against corruption. It is necessary for parliamentarians to know that they do not stand alone when travelling the sometimes lonely and difficult road in their fight against corruption and money laundering. Peer support includes mentoring by informed Members of Parliament with others, especially new parliamentarians, on the role of Parliament as the institution of accountability and oversight of government - on behalf of all the citizens of their jurisdiction.

2) *Education programs for parliamentarians* on a more formal basis to, again, help them understand their role as overseers of government. We send our young people to university to become lawyers, doctors, engineers, accountants etc., but with absolutely no education in their role, we expect parliamentarians to be professional in the oversight of the nation. Our Anti Money Laundering Initiative (AMLI) is a key component of this agenda because parliamentarians around the world clearly understand, and have witnessed, the link between corruption and money laundering.

3) *Leadership for Results* by identifying clear objectives starting with small steps and goals on what can be achieved in the fight against corruption and money laundering. By measuring the accomplishments of these steps and goals, GOPAC and its chapters will be able to demonstrate effectiveness as an organization.

GOPAC and its members, under the leadership of Hon. Roy Cullen, have been engaged in the fight against Money Laundering since 2003. The organization has held workshops in East Africa (2003), Latin America and the Caribbean (2005, 2006) and Eastern Europe (2005) that have provided parliamentarians with key information and access to resources, to assist them in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism. We have also discussed – parliamentarians to parliamentarians – how to build an effect AML/CFT regime and at the same time address the political dimension of this sometimes daunting task. Attached you will find a declaration signed by all of the participants at our most recent training workshop in Mexico City with Latin American and Caribbean parliamentarians.

Parliamentarians throughout the world have expressed a strong desire to obtain further information and training in money laundering; in particular, what legislative and other tools are available to them so that they can assist in the reduction or elimination of money laundering in their respective countries.

GOPAC is seeking observer status at the FATF. As an organization which has “*a specific anti-money laundering mission or function*” and which represents an institution which plays a key role in the AML regime, a relationship between the two organisations would be mutually beneficial. We would be pleased to discuss the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption and future collaboration with the Financial Action Task Force further with you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

**John Williams, MP**  
MP, Canada  
Chair, Canadian Chapter, GOPAC  
Chair, GOPAC

**Hon. Roy Cullen, MP**  
MP, Canada  
Chair, GOPAC AML Initiative

Enclosed:  
GOPAC Declaration (Mexico City, Mexico, 2006)