



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Global Conference, Arusha Tanzania**

### **PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY**

#### ***Recognizing that***

- Freedom of speech and vote are essential rights and duties of parliamentarians in democratic societies;
- Parliamentary immunity is essential to effective parliamentary independence;
- A system of parliamentary immunity that hinders the legitimate prosecution of criminal actions may offer protection for corrupt parliamentarians who misuse their membership in parliament for personal gain; and
- Parliamentary immunity can only be fully effective in an environment in which there is respect for the rule of law and human rights.

#### ***Noting the Resolution recently adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly that***

- Urges Parliaments of OSCE participating States to legislate to provide:
  - Clear, balanced, transparent and enforceable procedures for waiving parliamentary immunities in cases of criminal acts or ethical violations; and
  - That the privilege of parliamentary immunity must not apply to actions taken by an individual before they have assumed office or actions taken after they have left public office.

#### ***Declaring that***

- Parliaments should adopt functional systems of parliamentary immunity that provide protection from unwarranted and politically motivated prosecutions but also ensures that parliamentarians are held accountable before the law.

#### ***GOPAC resolves to establish a Global Task Force of GOPAC Members to***

- Study the research on the issue of parliamentary immunity conducted by the IPU, USAID, the Inter-America Bar Foundation, and other organizations;
- Develop general global standards on the issue of parliamentary immunity;
- Work with regional GOPAC chapters to form regional committees to study the issue of parliamentary immunity and develop regional guidance and activities based on GOPAC's general global standards;

- Report back to the next GOPAC global conference on the work and accomplishments of the Task Force and propose future actions or steps to be taken by GOPAC on this issue.

**Adopted by delegates at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Conference, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, Arusha  
Tanzania.**