

## **DECLARATION FORUM FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS**

**Conference of State Parties  
Dead Sea, Jordan: December 13, 2006**

WE THE PARLIAMENTARIANS from 4 continents attending the Forum for Parliamentarians held parallel to the UN Conference of States Parties to the UNCAC, including members of Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (“GOPAC”) and its regional chapters;

DEEPLY AWARE of the dire effects of corruption in reducing economic well-being, basic social services, standards of democracy, good governance and human rights;

FIRMLY BELIEVING that parliaments and parliamentarians should be an effective force in preventing and fighting corruption, by performing its fundamental functions and roles of legislation, oversight and representation and by engaging, educating citizens and enhancing their awareness on the Convention;

CALL UPON all governments and parliaments in all countries to ratify and implement effectively the provisions of the UN Convention Against Corruption, develop the appropriate political will to that effect as well as the effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and institutions, including developing capacity of parliaments.

URGE State Parties to engage and support parliaments and parliamentarians in their own respective countries and to work with international and regional organizations, particularly



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arab region parliamentarians  
Against Corruption



parliamentary organizations such as GOPAC, in the global fight against corruption.

ENDORSE the attached “Priority Action Items from a Parliamentary Perspective” as a recommended course of action for the proper implementation of the UNCAC.

## **PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS FROM A PARLIAMENTARY PERSPECTIVE**

### **I- LEGISLATION**

- Urge parliaments who have not yet ratified the UNCAC to take the necessary steps to do so.
- Encourage the analysis of the required legislation for full compliance with the UNCAC (“Gap Analysis”); to that effect, provide the necessary capacity and technical assistance.
- Develop technical assistance for legislative drafting, including the sharing of relevant laws and best practices; develop appropriate legislative guidelines.
- Ensure that legislation regarding independent anti-corruption bodies is effective, user friendly, and clearly understandable by the general public.
- Enhance the legitimacy, credibility, and standards of integrity of Parliaments and parliamentarians in their fight against corruption, through appropriate legislative measures such as: appropriate regulation for the funding of political parties and election campaigning, including transparency measures; basic rules of conduct for parliamentarians; and more balanced parliamentary immunity regimes.
- Develop critical legislation that promotes the prevention of corruption, including: access to information laws, conflict of interest and illicit enrichment laws, rules of conduct for civil servants; strong anti-money laundering and asset recovery regimes; whistle blower protection laws; mechanisms and processes for the monitoring and implementation of the UNCAC.

### **II. PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT**

- Develop the effectiveness and capacity of Parliament as the foremost oversight institution for fighting corruption by achieving the following: (i) improve financial oversight through the creation of parliamentary budget offices; (ii) reforming parliamentary Rules of Order and By-Laws wherever necessary in order to enhance and facilitate the oversight role of

parliamentarians, committees and the parliament's plenary; (iii) give parliaments the power to summon anyone in front of parliamentary committees as well as powers to punish those who refuse to appear.

- Develop collaboration between parliament and oversight bodies, e.g. courts, anti-corruption independent institutions, auditors general, ombudsmen offices, civil society.
- Share information about successful oversight experiences.
- Develop monitoring mechanisms to follow up on the compliance of legislation with the provisions of the UNCAC.

### **III. PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION AND ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY**

- Engage parliaments in the development of national, regional and global action plans against corruption.
- Encourage awareness-raising, education and training amongst parliamentarians and the general public about the provisions of the UNCAC and its implications. “Train the trainers” on anti-corruption measures and strategies and ethics.
- Open constituency information offices to share information and make the governance process accessible to the people/constituents.
- Engage civil society organizations (particularly specialized organizations such as Transparency International), including the media, trade-unions and other non-governmental actors, on strategies and action plans against corruption.
- Make the legislation and budget process transparent to the citizens holding public hearings, open committee meetings etc.
- Develop measures that promote freedom of expression, including the media and the press. Also, conduct and share research studies on corruption with the media.
- Create platforms for inter-governmental monitoring through regional anti-corruption bodies.