

**LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION
(PLACC)**

Preamble

- RECOGNIZING:** The supremacy of parliament as an institution to which governments must respond and be accountable.
- AWARE:** That corruption poses a serious threat to the well-being of all peoples and the development of their societies.
- CONCERNED:** That corruption takes scarce funds away from basic human needs and destroys confidence in the integrity of our institutions.
- INTERESTED:** In developing healthy and balanced relations between the State, civil society and the market as an essential element and in strengthening parliaments as effective institutions for approving government policies and actions.
- RECOGNIZING:** That the best way of controlling corruption is to strengthen systems for accountability, transparency and public participation in the process of governance.
- UNDERSTANDING:** The great value of the union of parliamentarians for creating a productive strategy, sharing information, experiences and lessons learned, and devising initiatives to strengthen parliaments in the fight against corruption.
- REITERATING:** Our commitment to promote laws that strengthen society and support transparency and accountability through:
- Strengthening the commitment of parliaments and their capacity for accountability, with particular attention to financial matters;
 - Sharing information, lessons learned and best practises;
 - Carrying out projects to reduce corruption and promote good governance;
 - Cooperating with civil society organizations that champion common objectives;
 - Recognizing that the rule of law is primordial for building a healthy, free and productive society.

We hereby resolve to establish a regional chapter of parliamentarians against corruption, as a tool for strengthening the effectiveness of parliamentarians as the front line in the fight against corruption.

STATUTE OF THE ORGANIZATION

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The organization called Parlamentarios Latinoamericanos contra la Corrupción (PLACC) [Organization of Latin America Parliamentarians Against Corruption] will be established under the laws of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

ARTICLE 2. DOMICILE

PLACC will be domiciled at Av. Auro Soares de Moura Andrade, 564 – CP. 01154-060, São Paulo, SP – Brazil

ARTICLE 3. NATURE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION

PLACC is a not-for-profit international organization whose main purpose is to bring together parliamentarians, both in representation of their respective parliaments and individually, and former parliamentarians, for the purpose of combating corruption and promoting transparency and accountability, to ensure the observance of high standards of integrity in public management.

The objectives of the regional chapter are:

1. To work with the national chapters in the region to establish standards of conduct that will promote transparency, accountability and good governance.
2. To promote the rule of law and the accountability of State institutions.
3. To strengthen the capacity of parliaments and parliamentarians in the region to supervise the activities of their governments and other public institutions, thereby increasing their accountability.
4. To promote and facilitate exchanges of information, knowledge and experience among its members.
5. To share information on lessons learned and best practices in combating corruption.
6. To encourage parliaments and parliamentarians to draft and pass laws that promote good governance, transparency and accountability.

7. To promote measures to effectively combat corruption and raise general awareness about the problem of corruption in all spheres of society.
8. To support parliamentarians and policy makers in their efforts and cooperate with them in devising new ways of combating corruption.
9. To advocate the inclusion of measures to combat corruption in all government programs and work to boost the capacity of national and regional institutions to tackle corruption effectively.
10. To work in national and regional bodies to mobilize resources for programs to combat corruption, including:
 - support for the activities of similar organizations and other regional chapters;
 - exchanges of information using websites, electronic mail and other services;
 - sponsorship of national and regional workshops to combat corruption;
 - contacts and cooperative work with international organizations, parliamentary institutions, civil society, and other organizations in all areas intended to improve governance, transparency and accountability;
 - research and the dissemination of information on best practices;
 - promotion of the causes of its members in support of the goals and objectives of the organization.
11. To do whatever is required to support and promote compliance with each of the objectives under consideration, including the capacity to obtain funding from public or private sources (national, regional and international).

ARTICLE 4. MEMBERSHIP

The following persons may join PLACC:

- a. parliamentary members: parliamentarians and former parliamentarians, upon application;
- b. observers: institutions, individuals, donors, non-governmental organizations, senior oversight bodies and other organizations that support or have similar objectives to the organization, upon application;
- c. all PLACC members are required to respect its code of conduct;
- d. membership will be subject to approval by the board of directors.

ARTICLE 5 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership will be terminated on account of death, removal or voluntary withdrawal from the organization.
- b. All members are required to inform the executive committee in writing of their decision to withdraw from the organization.
- c. A member may be suspended or have their name removed from the register of members on grounds determined by the board of directors.
- d. Any member who has been suspended or excluded may appeal within three months after the date of the decision by the board of directors.

ARTICLE 6. CODE OF CONDUCT

- a. All members are required to behave and conduct their business in a way that is compatible with the values upheld by PLACC and seek to maintain the integrity of those values.
- b. Members are required to avoid real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest.
- c. Members are required to inform the organization of any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest as soon as they become aware of any circumstance that could lead to such conflict.
- d. The board of directors will be responsible for examining violations of the values of the organization and has full authority to decide on an appropriate penalty in any given case.

ARTICLE 7. ORGANS

The administrative organs of the organization are the board of directors and the executive committee, whose member will serve in an honorary capacity.

ARTICLE 8. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The board of directors is the general assembly of the organization and will be composed of up to two representatives of each member national parliament, with their respective alternates. The members of the board will serve for a maximum of two years, and may be reelected.
2. The members of the board will elect an executive body composed of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and one non-officer member. The election will take place on the occasion of the first meeting of the plenary board of directors, which will be held within a maximum of 30 days after the board has been established. The meetings of the board may take place electronically and will be held at intervals determined by it.

3. The president will be the legal representative of PLACC and may not hold that position for more than two periods. At the end of his mandate, he will be replaced by a person from a different country.
4. The board of directors will be empowered to decide on any matter of importance for the organization and to guide the implementation of its decisions, on the basis of the goals and objectives of the organization.
5. The quorum for meetings of the board of directors will be half of its members.
6. The board is empowered to adopt its own agenda at its meetings.
7. Decisions will be taken by a majority of votes. Each member of the board will have one vote and the president will cast the deciding vote in the case of ties.
8. The secretary or, in his absence, a person designated by the board, will keep the minutes of the meetings and sign the minutes and any decisions adopted.

The board will also be empowered to:

- a. consider the reports of the executive committee and decide whether to confer formal approval on its actions;
- b. establish rules for contributions, donations and gifts to the organization;
- c. approve the accounts for the previous year, the annual budget and any complementary items;
- d. approve applications for membership and take decisions regarding the suspension and removal of members;
- e. consider proposals to amend any of the articles and make its recommendations.

ARTICLE 9. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The executive committee is the administrative body of the organization and will be composed of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and a non-officer member elected by the board.
 - a.¹ The members of the executive committee will remain in office for no more than two years.
 - b. Temporary vacancies on the executive committee will be filled by the board of directors from the list of its current members.

¹ There is no number "a" in the original, which starts here with "b". Tr.

2. The executive committee is responsible for all matters related to the organization, except in cases where a responsibility or task has been expressly assigned to another body.
3. In particular, the executive committee will have the following functions:
 - a. to receive all the membership applications from new members or affiliates and to remit the applications to the board of directors with its recommendations;
 - b. to convoke emergency meetings of the board of directors and establish the date and time of such meetings;
 - c. to propose the organization's annual program of work and budget to the board of directors;
 - d. to organize a schedule of activities in conjunction with the World Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (OMPACC) and other regional chapters;
 - e. to supervise and administer the secretariat; in particular, to ensure that the decisions adopted by the conference or the board of directors are executed;
 - f.² to inform the board of directors about the activities of the executive committee, through a report prepared by the president;
 - g. to act as the organization's official channel of communication;
 - h. to facilitate and promote communications among the members;
 - i. to enter into contracts on behalf of the organization;
 - j. to apply for loans, collect, receive and spend funds in pursuit of the objectives and purposes of the organization.
4. The executive committee's authority to apply for loans may not be exercised unless:
 - a. approval from the board of directors has been obtained in advance; and
 - b. the loan is guaranteed with funds or assets belonging to the organization.
5. The executive committee may delegate any of its powers or duties to a subcommittee or a national chapter.
6. The quorum of the executive committee will be three of its members.
7. Meetings may be held through videoconferencing or some other suitable mode. The modes and dates of meetings will be decided by the president. The secretary will

² There are two sections marked "f" in the original. Tr.

convoke the meetings at the president's request. In the absence of the president, the executive committee will designate one of its members to chair the meeting.

8. Decisions will be adopted by a majority and each member will have one vote. In the case of a tie, the president or his replacement will cast the deciding vote.
9. Minutes will be kept of the meetings and the minutes and decisions adopted will be signed by the president and the secretary.

ARTICLE 10 THE CONFERENCE

1. The board of directors will cooperate with the international organization and other regional chapters in organizing a conference every two years, to which all the member parliamentarians and observers will be invited.
2. The conference will debate any topic that falls within the objectives of the organization or any other related business matter and will make recommendations, provided due notification was given.

ARTICLE 11. THE SECRETARIAT

1. The secretariat will be located at the organization's headquarters.
2. The secretariat will have the following functions:
 - a. to act as permanent headquarters of the organization;
 - b. to keep the list of members, including the national chapters, and encourage new members and affiliates to join;
 - c. to coordinate and facilitate the activities of the organization's different bodies and, in particular, to provide support for the executive committee;
 - d. to compile and disseminate information on the organization and its members and on any of the national chapters;
 - e. to assist in establishing national chapters;
 - f. to ensure that the members of the organization are well informed about its programs and activities;
 - g. to maintain contact and coordinate activities between the organization and other groups or institutions;
 - h. to coordinate the representation of the organization at conferences; and
 - i. to manage the finances and keep the organization's records and files.

ARTICLE 12. NATIONAL CHAPTERS

1. National chapters may be established as observing members of PLACC. The national chapters will have the right to speak at the meetings of the board of directors.

ARTICLE 13. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

1. The organization's funds will be used to achieve its objectives and to finance it as an independent entity.
2. The sources of financing will be:
 - a. fund-raising activities;
 - b. donations and grants;
 - c. dues, as established by the board of directors;
 - d. contributions, including contributions by governments, government agencies, corporations and other businesses, international organizations, individuals and other organizations.
 - e. any other source approved of by the board of directors.

ARTICLE 14. BANK ACCOUNT

1. The executive committee, through a general resolution, will maintain a bank account in a financial institution; all financial transactions will be made in the name of the organization.
2. All of the organization's cheques will be signed by the treasurer or by secretariat staff specifically authorized to so do.

ARTICLE 15. ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING

1. The executive committee will prepare a budget and keep the books, which will be examined each year by an independent auditor who is a professional accountant or auditor in the country where the regional chapter is located.
2. The budget and plan of work will be presented to a meeting of the board of directors for approval each year.
3. The secretariat will prepare an annual report on the funds received and spent during the financial year.

ARTICLE 16. AMENDMENTS AND REVOCATION OF ARTICLES

1. This statute can be amended, expanded upon, shortened or supplemented periodically through a special resolution approved and supported by a two-thirds majority of the members present at the meeting of the board of directors.
2. All members proposing a change in the statute will present their proposal in writing to the executive committee, at least three months in advance of the meeting of the board of directors.
3. The executive committee will transmit all proposals for amendments to the board, which will remit them to all the members at least one month in advance of the conference or the date of the extraordinary meeting.
4. All amendments that are passed will be included in an amended statute.

ARTICLE 17. DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

1. The decision to dissolve a regional chapter will require a resolution adopted at an extraordinary meeting called by the board of directors and supported by the votes of three-quarters of the active members present.
2. In the event it is decided to dissolve the organization, its assets and funds will be transferred to OMPACC.

Argentina
 Aruba
 Bolivia
 Brazil
 Chile
 Colombia
 Costa Rica
 Cuba
 Dominican Republic

Ecuador
 Guatemala
 Honduras
 Mexico
 Panama
 Paraguay
 Peru
 Uruguay
 Venezuela