

# SOUTH EAST ASIA PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION

## THE MANILA DECLARATION

**WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES** from the legislatures of the countries of the South East Asia Region, determined to extend to our peoples belonging to different cultures and societies the benefits of peace, progress and growth,

**Convinced** that corruption debilitates economies and undermines political and social institutions;

**Conscious** that corruption wastes scarce resources, deprives people of needed infrastructure and basic services, and engenders inequality, inequity and injustice;

**Realizing** that corruption distorts the distribution of the fruits of growth, and consequently widens the gap between the rich and the poor;

**Acknowledging** that corruption increases production costs and results in substandard goods and inferior service;

**Determined** to reverse the culture of corruption, restore the dignity of our peoples, and establish in our Region a regime of integrity, transparency and accountability; and

**Realizing** that collaboration among countries is essential in the fight against corruption;

**DO HEREBY RESOLVE** to commit ourselves, collectively and individually, to the following programme of action:

1. To call for, endorse, and support the ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption so as to hasten its coming into force.
2. To foster closer collaboration among legislators of the Region and with multi-lateral organizations in order to forge a sustainable common front against corruption.
3. To establish the South East Asia Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC) as a framework for cooperation and collaboration, as a vehicle for exchange of information and expertise, and to assist the Region's legislatures in the review, appraisal, and enactment of legislation towards the realization of our international commitments.
4. To thoroughly review our respective state of laws, standards, system and strategies to determine their adequacy and consistency with our international commitments against corruption in accordance with the spirit of the principles above stated.
5. To promote the participation of all sectors of society in advancing the Rule of Law, and good governance in the conduct of public and private affairs.

**AND WE HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVE** to call on our respective peoples for their support and to join us in this challenging undertaking.

Done in Manila, Philippines, on April 1, 2005.

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