

Proposed GOPAC Constitutional Amendments

THE PREAMBLE

Proposed Amendments

- Broaden the definition of ‘corruption’, it is too narrow. **(Senator Singer, Uruguay)**
- Add a new first clause to read: “Anxious to preserve and promote the vigour and vitality of democracy and ensure good and clean government.”
- Amend existing first clause to read: “Recognizing the Supremacy of Parliament in a healthy democracy as the institution to which a government is answerable and accountable *on behalf of the people.*”
- Amend opening sentence of ‘REITERATING’ clause to read: ‘*Reiterating* our commitment to strengthen society and promote good governance by *upholding* transparency and accountability.”
- Amend fourth section of the REITERATING clause to read: “*Seeking the cooperation* of International Financial Institutions (IFI’s) and organizations in civil society *with regard to shared objectives.*” **(Inder Jit, India)**
- Amend fourth section of the REITERATING clause to read: ‘*Cooperating with and demanding from the IFIs an ethical and just behaviour,*” and *cooperating with organizations in civil society with shared objectives.*
- In the fifth section of the REITERATING clause, add the words “*and just*” after the word *productive.* **(David Jimenez Gonzalez, Mexico)**
- Under the REITERATING clause, make the following changes « *Create separate sections for IFI’s and civil society organizations.*” **(Zelma Vasconcelos, Mozambique)**
- Paragraph Five amend to “*That corruption can best be combated...*” **(Stephan Cazimir, Romania)**

ARTICLE 1

- Change the name to *Global Organization of Parliaments and Parliamentarians Against Corruption.* **(David Jimenez Gonzalez, Mexico)**

ARTICLE 3

3.1

- Change the last words ‘public transactions’ to read: *in the public sector and in the relations between the public sector and the private and social sectors.* (**David Jimenez Gonzalez, Mexico**)

3.2

- Add additional clauses as follows: *“to assist the members; to cooperate with other regional and international organizations and institutions established to fight against corruption; to monitor elections for local government to ensure that citizens can participate; to cooperate with the media.”* (**Zelma Vasconcelos, Mozambique**)
- Include a provision for receiving complaints of corruption from the regions so that GOPAC might, as an international organisation, mobilize an international movement as a response. Also include an ‘Object’ that this organization will promote democracy in individual parliaments so that it does not impose ideas on parliamentarians that have come about from undemocratic means. (**Kiraitu Murungi, Kenya**)

3.5

- At the end add *‘and for building integrity.’* (**Paul Maillet, Canada**)

ARTICLE 4

4.1

- After ‘former parliamentarians’ add *‘of sovereign states.’* (**Chinese Delegation**)
- Delete ‘democratically elected parliamentarians who have been denied their right to take office.’ (**David Jimenez Gonzales, Mexico**)
- Should reflect the same membership rules as Article 5. (**Kiraitu Murungi, Kenya**)
- Amend to state: *“Parliamentarians and former Parliamentarians, and democratically elected Parliamentarians who have been denied their right to take office shall be entitle to active membership in GOPAC*
-subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of GOPAC, and
-upon payment of an annual subscription fee determined by the Board of Directors
- Clearer definition as to the meaning of ‘parliamentarians who have been denied their right to take office.’ (**Mr. Taher Hikmat, Jordan**)

4.3

- Amend to state: *‘Observer status shall be granted to institutions, individuals, donors, NGOs and other organizations that support or pursue similar objectives as GOPAC or wish to provide their assistance, and have been approved by the Board of Directors.’* **(Pierre Fauchon, France)**

ARTICLE 5

5.3

- It will not be possible to determine cause for removal of members (Not said but implication is that the words ‘after’ ‘or’ should be deleted) **(David Jimenez Gonzales, Mexico)**

ARTICLE 6

6.1

- Amend to: *‘Strive to uphold the integrity and continuity of those values.’* **(Stefan Cazimir, Romania)**

ARTICLE 8

- Needs to reflect both genders. **(Dr. Zainab Gama, Tanzania)**

8.9

- After ‘casting vote’ add the following sentence: *‘Important decisions, such as amendments to the Constitution and admission of new members etc. shall be made upon consensus by all Board members.’* **(Chinese Delegation)**

ARTICLE 10

10.1

- Amend (in French version) to: *“convoque la conference.”* **(Stephan Cazimir, Romania)**

ARTICLE 12

- Should include national chapters in addition to regional chapters. **(Dr. Zainab Gama, Tanzania)**

12.10

- Amend to state: *‘Each regional section shall have a statute that shall not depart from the goals and objectives of, nor be inconsistent with, GOPAC’s constitution. It may also strengthen its structure by setting up or creating national internal committees of countries wishing to form them.’* (**Pierre Fauchon, France**)

OTHER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS/ISSUES

- Add section on cooperation with the churches.
- Add section on the need for civic education. (**Zelma Vasconcelos, Mozambique**)
- Make the organization part of the IPU.
- Clarify clause regarding former MPs, how to determine eligibility?
- Should be references to national chapters in the constitution.
- Composition of the Board should mention gender.
- Include multinationals in the scope of the work.
- Clarify if Members of the Executive Committee need to be Members of the Board of Directors.
- Include political parties (**Francisco Javier Rojo Garcia, Spain**)
- Include other considerations besides geographical boundaries i.e. geo-political boundaries (**Taher Hikmat, Jordan**)
- The preamble does not allow for those participants living under a Presidential system where Parliament is not supreme. (**Edgardo Angara, Philippines**)