

GOPAC DAILY NEWS

A Daily Summary of the 1st GOPAC Conference

Issue 2

Ottawa, 15 October 2002

DELEGATES GET DOWN TO WORK CONFERENCE BLAZES AHEAD TO CREATE GOPAC

The first full day of Day One began with the work at GOPAC is complete, after delegates worked very hard in many of the plenary and breakout sessions.

opening plenary session when Canadian Senate Speaker Dan Hays and House of Commons Speaker Peter Milliken brought greetings from

the Parliament of Canada. "When corruption appears and the interests of the few supplant the many, it erodes people's confidence...To fight corruption is crucial to democracy," said Speaker Hays.

Speaker Milliken added: "Indeed corruption is not an isolated problem - it is created by poverty and weak education. But by working together we can reach solutions that can reach the whole world."

to formally create the Global Organization, calling on parliamentarians to come together. Musikari Kombo, an M.P. from Kenya seconded the motion, by stating, "Parliaments are fundamental pillars of accountability. African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) had great success by forging together... committed parliamentarians...therefore, the need for GOPAC is clear in my mind."

After the formalities were completed, it was down to work. A lively debate on the need for a global organization focused solely on corruption ensued, with Diputada Beatriz Paredes of Mexico introduced a motion from parliamentarians from



Delegates get down to work Monday morning in one of three different workshops on Parliament Hill

WBI VICE-PRESIDENT: "FIGHTING CORRUPTION CANNOT BE LEFT TO GOVERNMENT ALONE"

Franny Léautier, vice-president of the World Bank Institute, addressed the plenary session of GOPAC on Monday afternoon. Madame Léautier touched on some of the work done by the World Bank on fighting corruption.

The World Bank has a "zero-

tolerance" policy in dealing with corruption in projects it sponsors. The Bank also targets and provides assistance to countries who are actively asking for help in implementing anti-corruption policies, and collaborates with international partners in fighting corruption, such as the

OECD, the UN and Transparency International.

"Fighting corruption cannot be left to governments alone," said Madame Léautier. "It is clear that parliaments have a critical role to

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Mme. Franny Léautier

GOPAC Daily News

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Léautier, continued...

play in the fight. Through oversight...Parliament can hold governments to account through active oversight bodies such as Public Accounts Committees, and transparent audit systems.

"Let me share with you some thoughts on key ingredients for the success of an international organization," said Madame Léautier. "They must have leadership, a broad based coalition for support, provide networking opportunities, and know how to leverage the knowledge that resides in this room."

Madame Léautier concluded by saying, "as you leave Ottawa, you must keep the momentum going so that GOPAC can succeed."

Delegates blazing ahead...continued from page one

around the world speaking in favour of the motion introduced by Diputada Paredes and Mr. Kombo. The motion to create the organization was passed overwhelmingly, a positive sign for the work of the days to come.

WORKSHOPS AND BREAKOUTS... FRAMING THE PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION

Information is the key. That was the conclusion of two workshops held under Chair Sanjaasuren Oyun of Mongolia, on the subject of the role of the individual Parliamentarian.

Panelist Johnson Nkuuhe, of Uganda, said that information technology is the key tool available to Parliamentarians who want to fight corruption in their legislatures. A member of the African regional group (APNAC), Nkuuhe said tools must be used to facilitate the flow of information and to show that corruption doesn't pay and that action against it is for the common good. If you want to embarrass the government, he advised, "be well-equipped with information". Otherwise, said Son Chhay, from Cambodia, a panelist, the policy of the executive triumphs.



Look for other workshops and breakouts to be featured in this space tomorrow...

MENSAH-BONSU DELIVERS MONDAY EVENING ADDRESS

In his Monday evening dinner address at the Ottawa Marriott, Ghanaian MP Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu highlighted the role of the individual parliamentarian in combating corruption.

"Corruption curtails economic growth," said Kyei-Mensah-

Bonsu. "Resources are diverted and never reach their designated destinations. They enrich a few individuals while impoverishing and alienating many, and thus create a parallel economy." persistence of the individual parliamentarian is of utmost importance if...bad governance should be confronted headlong. After all, as a local adage goes, "it takes one person to kill an elephant for the rest to partake in the meal."

"The diligence, dexterity meticulousness, tenacity and he