



## Board meeting Minutes November 16, 2008

### I. Meeting called to order

Present: John Williams Chairperson (NAPAC)  
Augustine Ruzindana (APNAC)  
Mahi Bahi Amar (ARPAC)  
Naser Al Sane (ARPAC)  
Abdel Fattah (ARPAC)  
Mary King (CaribPAC)  
César Jauregui (LAPAC) (*non-voting*)  
César Camacho (LAPAC)  
Martin Ulrich, Executive Secretary GOPAC

GOPAC Secretariat: Meaghan Campbell, Kimberley Jordan, Bonnie Kirkwood, Nola Juraitis

### II. Quorum Declared

- Agenda Adopted
- John Williams thanks the Kuwait government and Al Sane

### III. Regional chapter development

#### Updates on Some Chapters

1. North American Region (NAPAC)
  - This chapter has been newly founded with the assistance of The United States Association of Former Members of Congress
2. Latin American Region (LAPAC)
  - Diputado César Camacho is the new interim Chair for LAPAC
3. European Region (EuroPac)
  - Senator Alain Destexhe is the new interim Chair for European Chapter
4. Arab Region (ARPAC)
  - There has been a lot of progress as ARPAC is currently considered the “Flagship” Region”
5. Africa Region (APNAC)
  - Since 2006 conference in Tanzania was co-hosted by APNAC, there have been some changes. APNAC is registered as an international organization in Kenya in 2006, with a

secretariat based in Nairobi. However, due to funding difficulties, the Acting Chair has been working between Uganda and Nairobi for the last six months. A proposal for funding is being considered by CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency).

- There are now 20 chapters in Africa with several in formation. However work on taskforces and programming has slowed due to lack of funding.
- This past year APNAC carried out a survey in Africa on the impact of corruption on MPs themselves. In many countries during elections there are bribes. The voters expect services from you as an MP. The survey results were disseminated by Oxford.
- Chapter in Liberia (small parliament) looking at role of MPs in terms of MDGs.
- Some regional parliaments do not have links with APNAC and it is taking steps to establish such links.

#### 6. Caribbean Region (CaribPac)

- The importance of political party funding was raised as a key issue, and it was suggested that GOPAC consider this as a global task force. Trinidad and Tobago, for example, have no laws on how parties are funded. Contracts with winning political party supporters are filled immediately after the election and the masses are ignored. It was suggested that this might be a good issue for the regional chapter to pursue, since an initiative within a single parliament is easy to defeat. It also was noted that the UNCAC does not include such a provision, although it was seriously considered.

### IV. Global Task Forces (GTFs)

#### Brief updates on certain GTFs

##### 1. UNCAC

- GOPAC participated in COSP Jordan (2007) and then Bali (2008). The next meeting is in Doha (2009).
- Relationship with UNODC is being strengthened as well as with U4 and others.
- Need to continue to move forward, such as on the review mechanism. Reports from such a process should be tabled in each country where a report is prepared. For this, wording must be tabled on Dec 15 in preparation for Doha. It was suggested that each person go back to their respective governments and work on wording that will be accepted.

##### 2. Anti Money Laundering

- Roy Cullen, who heads this task force, was not present, but it was noted that his book called "The Poverty of Corrupt Nations" has recently been published.

##### 3. Parliamentary Immunity

- In July this year there was a Parliamentary Immunity event held in Bogotá, Colombia. It was a collaboration of LAPAC, GOPAC and USAID in cooperation with the Andean parliament. It was well attended and contributed to the draft position statement and resolution for the GOPAC Conference.

#### 4. Resource Revenue Transparency

- In June 2007 the IASB (International accounting board) was presented with "A Project Brief" by J. Williams and R. Cullen on behalf of GOPAC. The brief summarized possible actions in support of the RRT Resolution (Tanzania 2006) making extractive industries issues transparent. ARPAC has done a detailed regional study, including country case studies.

#### 5. Development Assistance

- This is an area that requires greater attention, particularly with European countries and parliamentary bodies
- It is encouraging that Mary King is speaking to Commonwealth Parliamentary Association this weekend, as a representative of GOPAC.

### V. Update on the Global Conference: Al Sane

#### I. General Arrangements

- Apologies for any inconvenience upon arrival or check in!
- ARPAC first tried to have Morocco as the location for this conference. However, due to delays in decisions, the Kuwait government was approached and the Prime Minister agreed to support this conference. The ARPAC Chair and the Speaker met with the Amir to request that he be the patron of the conference. Although he does not always attend these events, for this event he has agreed to attend the opening.
- This is *the first time* the national assembly chamber has been used for a parliamentarian's gathering other than regular national assembly business.
- This is the largest delegation attending a conference ever organized in Kuwait.
- Participants will leave the hotel in the morning for the National Assembly. VIPs will include GOPAC and KUPAC board members. Each country delegation will have a designated head of delegation who will be seated behind their flag. International organizations will be seated behind the VIPs. Finally VIPs will go for photo with Amir and other delegates will return to the hotel, lunch being served.
- Next Board meeting will be Wednesday at 12:30. Following that everyone will be welcome to come to the Kuwait desert for a cultural evening – camel riding, falcons, folklore music, BBQ for lunch.

- #### II. Conference Program: This is the first conference since GOPAC established programming task forces. We look forward to them presenting their work and plans, as well as for setting new goals. Complements to the Ottawa Secretariat and the Chair for all of their hard work in putting together the conference program.

### VI. Executive Election: John Williams

Constitutional Requirements:

- The Chair of GOPAC can only be renewed once at a Board meeting coincident with a global conference and the new Chair must come from a different regional chapter. Therefore a new Chair, to take over at the close of this Conference, must come from a chapter other than NAPAC.
- In addition, all Executive positions must be filled by members from different chapters unless there are fewer than 7 chapters. There being 7 chapters, one person from each chapter must become a member of the GOPAC Executive.

Elections: In view of these constraints and that he will no longer be a member of the Executive, the current Chair offered to serve as a one person nominating committee. This being greeted with unanimous consent, he nominated the following persons for Executive positions.

Naser Al Sane	Chair
César Camacho	Vice Chair
Augustine Ruzindana	Vice Chair
Mary King	Secretary
Roy Cullen	Treasurer
Edgardo Angara	Member
Alain Destexhe	Member

This too was greeted with unanimous consent. The Chair then declared all nominees elected and reminded them that they would formally assume these positions at the Conclusion of the Kuwait Conference.

## VII. Creation of a new Secretariat Position: Naser Al Sane

- After thanking Board members for supporting him as the new Chair, the Chair-elect proposed the creation of a new position – Chief Executive Officer to assist the Chair in the challenging time ahead: the need to develop more regional chapters and stronger links with expert organizations; and the need for someone with the time, international credibility and experience to help the Chair and Executive to carry out these tasks. He indicated that if this proposal were accepted, he would further propose that Mr John Williams, on becoming past Chair of GOPAC at the conclusion of the conference, be asked to assume this position.
- This proposal was agreed to by consensus.
- **Mr Williams** thanked everyone for the “vote of confidence”, and declared his commitment to GOPAC’s goals and mission, and its importance, particularly for those who suffer most from corruption.
- There was discussion about whether the title of President might be preferable to CEO, but this was left for the new Executive Committee and Chair to sort out.

## VIII. Closing Comments and Adjournment

- **Naser Al Sane:** Stressed the importance of speaking to the media about GOPAC. Without GOPAC, we will be MPs “floating” about at a conference without vision and direction to fight corruption. I’d like to link this to John’s name. “I really felt at the first moment I was contacted by John that this is his unique contribution.”
- **C. Jauregui:** Stressed the importance of the new CEO working with regional chairs and chapters.
- **A. Ruzindana:** “What I have found remarkable is that John decided to end his political career to spend time on GOPAC. This is commendable.”
- **J. Williams:** Recalled the origin of the idea of GOPAC. After an excellent meeting of Public Accounts Committee members in India, the only idea for moving forward seemed to be yet another meeting. It was out of this initially unsatisfying discussion with colleagues that the idea emerged of creating an organization with continuity and an agenda. Fortunately, the Parliament of Canada agreed to host the first conference that led to the formal creation of GOPAC.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

---

**Martin Ulrich**  
Executive Secretary, GOPAC

---

**Mary K. King**  
Secretary, Executive of GOPAC