



GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION
ORGANIZATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DE PARLAMENTARIOS CONTRA LA CORRUPCIÓN

KUWAIT GOPAC CONFERENCE DECLARATION **PARLIAMENTARIANS COMBATING CORRUPTION:** **IT'S PART OF THE JOB**

We, parliamentarians and members of GOPAC accept that for parliamentarians, combating corruption is not an option; it's part of the job.

We also:

Acknowledge that our duty as parliamentarians is to be the principal representatives of citizens.

Are aware of the enormous negative impacts of corruption on people and the global nature of the problem.

Recognize that the approval of the UNCAC by the UN General Assembly in November 2003 marked the formal recognition of the global nature of corruption and the global scope of action needed to address it effectively.

Are reminded of the coming into force of the Convention in 2005. Now with over 120 countries having ratified the convention, it attests to the commitments of governments of these countries to establish corruption as a crime to be prosecuted.

Reiterate GOPAC's support for the UNCAC given at the Merida, Mexico signing ceremony, while drawing attention to the crucial role parliamentarians must play in its effective implementation.

Organised the 2006 Forum of Parliamentarians at the Conference of State Parties at the Dead Sea, Jordan which identified complementary steps parliamentarians could take, such as strengthening parliamentary oversight and parliamentary ethical conduct; and

The 2008 Forum of Parliamentarians at the Conference of State Parties at Bali, Indonesia which identified ways that parliamentarians could support, in a sustained manner, the implementation of governance improvements needed to prevent corruption.

We, parliamentarians and members of GOPAC, having resolved:

- 1) to carry out our duties with particular attention to our oversight responsibilities for public resources.
- 2) to work with our parliamentary colleagues, governments and international organizations to implement the UN Convention Against Corruption more effectively and in more countries.
- 3) to reduce corruption through improved governance, and to work together internationally on anti money laundering initiatives and recovery of stolen assets.

At this conference, after confirming the support to these earlier initiatives, GOPAC members have now resolved to encourage parliamentarians:

- 1) to ***strengthen the performance of parliaments*** in carrying out their core democratic functions of legislation, representation and oversight that are essential to improving integrity in governance.
- 2) to ***work with UNODC and with governments*** that have ratified the UNCAC to provide additional and sustained political leadership to government or country strategies to more effectively implement the UNCAC;
- 3) to **support global initiatives** by international organizations that combat corruption;
- 4) to promote ***greater public understanding*** of the negative effects of corruption and to harness that public opinion in the fight against corruption.

To turn these aspirations into a program, GOPAC has adopted:

- 1) a resolution seeking formal ***recognition from the Conference of State Parties on the UNCAC of the important role of parliaments*** in the fight against corruption thereby empowering parliamentarians to play their support and leadership roles more effectively;
- 2) a resolution recognising that “***implementation review is the engine of improvement of a government’s performance on the UNCAC***” and mandates its UNCAC Global Task Force to support the UNODC efforts in relation to Article 63 and find ways to ***ensure that parliaments have the opportunity to review reports prepared by state parties on implementation***;
- 3) a resolution authorizing GOPAC to seek improved ***operational alliances with international organizations*** that share UNCAC’s objectives, so that the work of parliamentarians can better complement the work of others; and

- 4) a number of *policy positions* for each member and chapter to pursue, as is appropriate to each region and country, to engage in the fight against corruption, and to document accomplishments.

*Adopted by participants at the 3rd GOPAC Global Conference held in Kuwait City,
Kuwait (November 16th – 19th, 2008)*