

## REGIONAL CHAPTER WORKSHOPS

The suggested approach to these workshops, in view of Conference focus on the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), is for participants to discuss how they can work collectively to:

- effectively domesticate<sup>1</sup>, implement, and review the UNCAC; and
- strengthen parliamentary performance on overseeing financial administration of government; and
- engage the public to help prevent corruption.

### A Proposed Agenda

1. Review current regional activity on UNCAC and related regional and global anti corruption initiatives.
2. Country experiences: Are parliaments engaged in the UNCAC processes: e.g. ratification, anti-corruption committees of the parliament, reviewing development of government anti-corruption strategies, or receiving and reviewing any government reports on UNCAC (or related international conventions)?
3. Would there be value in creating regional working groups on UNCAC GTF issues (perhaps under the leadership of the regional member on the UNCAC GTF)?
4. For countries receiving development assistance, does it include support to building parliamentary capacity? If so, is parliament involved in its deciding how it is applied?

### Principles to keep in mind:

- Preventing corruption depends on good governance which relies on effective parliaments and public engagement in the political process.
- Anti-corruption initiatives will benefit from a parliamentary oversight framework for managing public resources in a transparent and accountable manner.
- Parliamentarians should:
  - seek to work with governments and international organizations to enhance anti-corruption measures;
  - domesticate (tailor) international conventions and initiatives, recognizing the need to respect country institutions, cultures and values;
  - carry out their democratic roles effectively and in such a way that meets public ethical standards;
  - engage civil society and citizens in their work;
  - provide for measurement and documentation of their own performance for progress on the anti-corruption agenda; and
  - keep in mind the importance of an independent media is crucial in the fight against corruption.

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<sup>1</sup> Domestication refers to alignment of provisions to the specific legal and cultural context of each country and region. It also applies to the policy planning for UNCAC implementation with regard to article 5.