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**GOPAC Releases Declaration from the Third Forum of Parliamentarians**

GOPAC was invited by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime to hold the third Forum of Parliamentarians in conjunction with the Third Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against-Corruption (UNCAC). The Forum concluded by releasing its Declaration that calls for collective and concerted effort against corruption.

The theme of the Forum was “Working with Others”. The objectives of the event were to better link the political leadership of parliamentarians with the expertise and initiatives of international organizations, and to identify practical actions they can take individually and collectively to support State Parties in implementing this important international treaty.

Parliamentarians from 26 countries were in attendance. Representatives from different international organizations involved in many initiatives related to anti-corruption made presentations on their progress to-date, and outlined how parliamentarians can do their part. Delegates also discussed how to adapt a strategy that involves working together effectively among all stakeholders in a well coordinated way.

Dr. Naser J. Al-Sane, Chair of the Forum and of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), noted that the Declaration issued reflects the Delegates’ collective resolve in advancing the universal goal of eradicating corruption world wide, and that every individual and organization needs to make a concerted effort in that regard. Delegates also believed that multi-stakeholder partnerships are the doorway that would ultimately lead to the achievement of our common objective. The Declaration also expresses the parliamentarians’ commitment to work with others (such as international expert and donor agencies) in order to be supportive to the UNCAC in its successful implementation and review, including engaging citizens and civil society and improving parliamentary financial oversight.

The Declaration will be posted on the GOPAC website at: [www.gopacnetwork.org](http://www.gopacnetwork.org)

For further information on the Declaration the UNCAC-GTF, please contact Nola Juraitis at: [Nola-jur@sympatico.ca](mailto:Nola-jur@sympatico.ca)



Kevin Deveaux, UNDP, Mitch O'Brien, World Bank, Dr. Naser J. Al-Sane, Chair of GOPAC, John Williams, CEO of GOPAC

## GOPAC launches its Handbook on Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct

GOPAC released its Handbook on Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct in Doha, Qatar on November 10, 2009, at the Forum of Parliamentarians. The *Handbook* was developed jointly by GOPAC and WFD as part of a global initiative to promote good governance and prevent corruption. GOPAC and WFD believe that developing these tools and standards is important to foster the public's trust and confidence in parliament, its members, and public officials.

The purpose of the *Handbook* is to provide an overview of the key steps involved in developing an ethics and conduct regime for parliaments and individual parliamentarians, and the important factors that need to be kept in mind. The process includes the following stages:

- defining the problem that a new ethics a conduct regime seeks to address
- building and getting agreement among parliamentarians on the overarching principles
- developing detailed rules
- establishing an appropriate regulatory and enforcement system
- providing training and education opportunities..

Dr. Naser J. Al-Sane, Chair of GOPAC announced at the launch, "It is fitting that the *Handbook* is launched at today's Forum of Parliamentarians during the Conference of States Parties III on the *United Nations Convention Against Corruption*. One of the tools advocated by the UNCAC for implementation in a country is the development of a code of conduct. The development of the *Handbook* was under the guidance of parliamentarians for parliamentarians. It will serve as a starting point for elected officials to develop a formal ethics and conduct regime to enhance the public's confidence in parliaments, help combat corruption in general, and to address various issues related to parliamentarians' ethics and conduct in particular. "

For further information on the Handbook, contact Stephen Tsang, Secretary to the Global Task Force on Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct at: [info@gopacnetwork.org](mailto:info@gopacnetwork.org)

## GOPAC CEO attends APNAC Annual General Meeting

The African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption had their Annual General Meeting in Lusaka, Zambia from September 19th to 20th. The meeting elected a new executive and Honourable Given Lubinda of Zambia was elected Chair of APNAC.

In addition to formally confirming that APNAC would serve as a regional chapter, and will select three members to serve on the GOPAC Board of Directors, John Williams also discussed ways in which APNAC and GOPAC would work together.

The GM was attended by thirty-seven (37) delegates from fifteen (15) countries, all of which already had APNAC national chapters established. The countries represented were Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Among the cooperating partners in attendance were representatives from CIDA (Canada), DFID (United Kingdom), Africa Parliamentary Centre (Ghana), and World Bank Institute.



Oonagh Gay, from the Library of the House of Commons, UK, representing the author of the handbook, Greg Power, Ghassan Moukheiber, Lead of the GTF on Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct, Dr. Naser J. Al-Sane, Chair of GOPAC, Dr. Sean Farren, a Governor of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Dina Melhem, of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy



John Williams, CEO of GOPAC with outgoing APNAC Chair Augustine Ruzinanda, APNAC Chair Given Lubinda, and World Bank Institute's Mitch O'Brien with the new APNAC Executive.

