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## Regional Chapter Websites

[www.gopacnetwork.org](http://www.gopacnetwork.org)

[www.apnacafrica.org](http://www.apnacafrica.org)

[www.arpacnetwork.org](http://www.arpacnetwork.org)

[www.oplacc.org](http://www.oplacc.org)

<http://seapac05.tripod.com/>

## Global Task Force Web Pages

### Access to Information:

[http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming\\_ATI\\_en.htm](http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming_ATI_en.htm)

### Anti Money Laundering:

[http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming\\_AML\\_en.htm](http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming_AML_en.htm)

### UNCAC

[http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming\\_UNCAC\\_en.htm](http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming_UNCAC_en.htm)

### Parliamentary Ethics

[http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming\\_codes\\_en.htm](http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming_codes_en.htm)

## GOPAC's Global Task Forces: Instruments for Change



By Dr. Martin Ulrich, Executive Secretary

The effectiveness of GOPAC depends – at least in the eyes of non-parliamentarians – on the changes it makes to how parliament disciplines government spending and how effectively and credibly parliament exposes government misuse of public funds. Peer support and education of parliamentarians are important but mainly as contributing factors. Therefore, the political leadership GOPAC provides on specific initiatives to improve spending discipline and increase transparent oversight are central to GOPAC's success - and its Global Task Forces (GTF) are the most visible instrument.

The GOPAC Chair has outlined his view of the key features of the global task forces: large enough to represent the great regions of the world, but small enough to periodically get together to deliberate (12 persons suggested); knowledgeable members willing and able to devote time for parliamentarians to genuinely 'own' all task force products; support from expert agencies to ensure members are aware of related work, expertise and the latest research. The following articles in this newsletter provide an update on several of the task forces. I will outline in the next few paragraphs what can be called transition arrangements recognizing that in the short run resources to operate the GTFs as envisioned are not available, yet demonstrable progress by the time of the 2008 Global conference is important to sustain the initiative.

**Start with small teams** that can communicate effectively by e-mail and telephone, and more easily meet at meetings for other purposes. The first post-Arusha GTF event was the Parliamentary Forum held coincident with the UNODC-organized Conference of State Parties in Jordan in December, 2007. It not only produced an agenda for action for parliamentarians, but also provided an occasion for Dr. Al Sane (MP, Kuwait) – who assumed leadership of this GTF – to inform government delegates of the kind of work parliamentarians could do to help in effective implementation. Other task forces, similarly, are beginning work with a few colleagues.

**Establish priority among the GTFs.** Progress on 4 GTFs was seen as urgent – UNCAC because of its comprehensiveness and

**Parliamentary Immunity**  
[http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming\\_PI\\_en.htm](http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming_PI_en.htm)

**Parliamentary Oversight**  
[http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming\\_PO\\_en.htm](http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming_PO_en.htm)

**Resource Revenue Transparency**  
[http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming\\_RRT\\_en.htm](http://gopacnetwork.org/Programming/programming_RRT_en.htm)

### Related Links

[www.wfd.org](http://www.wfd.org)  
*The UK's democracy building foundation.*

[www.fatf-gafi.org](http://www.fatf-gafi.org)  
*The FATF develops and promotes national and international politics to fight money laundering and terrorist financing.*

[www.worldbank/wbi/](http://www.worldbank/wbi/)  
*Descriptive text that motivates the reader to click the link*

[www.eitransparency.org](http://www.eitransparency.org)  
*EITI supports improved governance in resource-rich countries through the verification and full publication of company payments and government revenues from oil, gas, and mining.*

[www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)  
*UN Office of Drugs and Crime – the organisation responsible for the UNCAC.*

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[secretariat@gopacnetwork.org](mailto:secretariat@gopacnetwork.org)

global visibility, AML because it was most developed with an active lead, Parliamentary Oversight because workshop participation clearly indicated its priority to GOPAC members, and Parliamentary Ethics, because the credibility of parliamentarians in the eyes of the public is essential for parliamentarians playing a positive role in combating corruption. Approaches and developments in each of these are described below.

***But not forget the others...*** John Williams MP, the GOPAC Chair, undertook to personally take steps in two areas: Resource Revenue Transparency (also described below), and urging development assistance agencies to arrange for greater involvement of parliaments in such projects. For the remaining two GTFs we are trying to arrange pilot studies. We expect that implementing balanced parliamentary immunity regimes will be tested in Latin America with support from USAID and the Latin American GOPAC chapter (LAPAC). We are also trying to arrange a few Transparency and Media initiatives in interested countries.

***Be opportunistic!*** In the case of two GTFs, in both cases led by members of ARPAC, regional initiatives are being shaped to both deliver on ARPAC interests, but also engaging GTF members from other regions to provide a global perspective. In the case of Parliamentary Oversight as noted below, the World Bank Institute funded preparation of an initial draft of what is intended to become a GOPAC handbook for consideration of the Parliamentary Oversight GTF. The task force is also using regional chapter conferences to identify relevance to regional oversight issues, and is considering a broader prior to the 2008 Global conference.

The GOPAC Secretariat plans to regularly update GTF developments on the GOPAC website. We hope you track developments, inform us about complementary activities in your own country and region and offer your suggestions.

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## Parliamentary Ethics Global Task Force: The Approach

By Hon. Ghassan Moukheiber, MP (Lebanon)



The Global Task Force on Parliamentary Ethics initially will be comprised of myself, Hon. Ross Robertson (MP, New Zealand), Senator Alain Destexhe (Belgium) and Hon Ogalo Wandera Dan (MP, Ghana). We will be joined by other Members of Parliament (to be identified) from other regions of the globe, experts in Parliamentary Ethics, representatives from other parliamentary organisations such as the IPU and will be provided with staff and administrative support from the GOPAC and ARPAC Secretariats.

### ***A Practical Handbook as End Product:***

The primary output of the Task Force will be a handbook for parliamentarians regarding political ethics systems of Members of Parliament. Although the effort will be led by ARPAC, and will include a focus on the Arab region, the Guide is intended as a resource for all GOPAC members.

The guide is intended as a practical handbook to ethics systems: that is, to present the reader with a manageable range of information from a global, comparative perspective, different options and balanced arguments to enlighten and allow opinion to be formed quickly and knowledgeably, while giving practical ways to achieve them.

Information may be presented using: case studies; lessons learned; self-contained boxes of text; lists of pros vs. cons on given topics; bullet points on relevance to the reader's own political system; bibliography and other references for further study. Given the time constraints of parliamentarians, 'academic-style' extended narrative, should be avoided.

The Handbook will be prepared based on background papers and materials (e.g. a paper was commissioned to Ms. Oonagh Gay) and material will also comprise of relevant existing codes and legislation for comparison. A paper listing all relevant legislation in 8 Arab countries was conducted and an analytical paper is under preparation. Such papers and background material will be published separately.

***For further information on the Parliamentary Ethics Global Task Force, please contact Dr. Khalil Gebara, Executive Officer of ARPAC [kgebara@arpacnetwork.org](mailto:kgebara@arpacnetwork.org) or Meaghan Campbell, GOPAC Programs and Communications Consultant at [Campbme@gopacnetwork.org](mailto:Campbme@gopacnetwork.org)***

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## Progress in the fight against money laundering



**By Hon. Roy Cullen P.C., M.P. (Canada)**

In Arusha, Tanzania (September, 2006) GOPAC resolved to establish an **AML (Anti Money Laundering)**, **CFT (Combating the Financing of Terrorism)**, **RAA (Recovery of Associated**

**Assets)** Global Task Force in recognition of the importance of reducing the opportunities for corruption by eliminating the opportunities to illegally obtain funds for personal use or terrorism. The resolution also acknowledged the need for international cooperation to address money laundering and the repatriation of associated assets.

In response to this, an action plan and budget have been developed and we are actively seeking funding from a variety of sources to implement this plan. In the meantime, however, work is continuing in a number of areas. In particular, we have begun a dialogue with the offshore banking community, in particular the Offshore Group of Banking Supervisors, to better understand what they are doing to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism. We are also promoting protocols specifically on fighting the laundering and recover of corrupt money and assets.

A project proposal is under development which would bring together GOPAC, jurisdictions engaged in offshore banking activities, NGO's, and international banks in a working conference format where GOPAC would push for greater cooperation and involvement in fight. The timing and venue of such an event will be communicated in due course.

GOPAC continues its dialogue with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Along these lines, and to enhance regional cooperation and local initiatives, regional chapters of GOPAC have been put in touch with Financial Action Task Force style bodies in their respective areas.

In association with the International Monetary Fund, another successful anti-money laundering regional workshop was completed recently in Vienna for Members of Parliament from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will soon be signed with the International Monetary Fund. This agreement will be used as the template for MOU's with other GOPAC partners.

An *International Convention Against Money Laundering* has been drafted for consideration by the GOPAC Anti-Money Laundering Global Task Force. The Financial Action Task Force has raised some legitimate concerns about the advisability of such a convention. Their views will be given careful consideration as GOPAC undertakes its review of this matter.

***Hon. Roy Cullen P.C. is Member of Parliament for Etobicoke North, Canada and Team Leader for GOPAC's AML Task Force. He may be contacted at [culler@parl.qc.ca](mailto:culler@parl.qc.ca) or [www.roycullen.com](http://www.roycullen.com).***

## Parliamentary Oversight: A Latin American Approach



By Former Senator (Mexico) César Jauregui Robles

In recent years, participation in electoral politics has expanded in Latin America. Indeed, following the dictatorships which ruled many countries for much of the 20th century, democracy has now brought to government groups that previously were in opposition, dissident or underground. Despite these changes, legislatures are still as ineffective in performing their duties as they were in the past and, what is worse, citizens are not as interested in what their government does once the elections are over.

Many parliamentarians take their role as lawmakers very seriously and as a result neglect the equally important duties of political and legislative control - the pillars of parliamentary oversight. Many new parliamentarians show the same deference and forget the role that legislatures must play in actually monitoring the consequences of the laws they pass, especially the strict oversight of any action taken and money spent by the government.

A new parliamentary culture should lead to knowledge of the parliamentarian's power to oversee the government, the periodic appearance of officials in parliament to report on their activities and public programs and plans, and also the ability to ensure that public funds are spent in a transparent manner.

Further, legislators should be encouraged to specialize in the work of particular committees, to avoid overwork. Giovanni Sartori says that when a congress takes on too much, no one fears it because it controls nothing in the end.

The preventive functions, which are often invisible, are extremely important, even though the general public may not know about them. Setting conditions for government spending and directing it to specific programs and results is what makes democracies effective.

Many parliamentarians must be made aware of the role of elected member or senator, which involves making laws, representing society and especially monitoring and overseeing the executive authority. This is no small task – but one that GOPAC is up for tackling.

***Cesar Jauregui Robles is a former Vice President and member of the Mexican Senate. Mr. Jauregui is also the***

*team leader for GOPAC's Parliamentary Oversight Global Task Force. He may be contacted at [cesar.jauregui@hotmail.com](mailto:cesar.jauregui@hotmail.com)*

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## Resource Revenue Transparency



By John Williams, MP, (Canada)

The extraction and sale of natural resources is a critical component of many national economies. While the commodities that are sought after are often similar across borders, the regulatory environments governing extractive industries are not. In many countries, a lack of regulatory transparency and oversight means that income generated from extractive industries can seldom be fully accounted for in a government's financial statements. The consequence of this lack of transparency is an inextricable link between the exploitation of natural resources and government corruption.

Fortunately, there is an emerging global consensus that seeks to bring the resource revenue of governments squarely into the public domain. When resource revenues are transparent, parliamentarians can hold governments accountable for the way in which those revenues are recorded and spent. Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global GOPAC Conference in September 2006, GOPAC has been pushing for changes to international accounting standards for sovereign nations to require that all revenues received from resource extraction activities be published in the Public Accounts as a separate line item.

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Chair of GOPAC's Anti-Money Laundering Initiative, Roy Cullen, M.P. (Canada), delivered a presentation to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) addressing the need for global cooperation to improve resource revenue transparency. Among other issues, Hon. Cullen discussed the 'resource curse' -the tendency for countries dependent on natural resources to be particularly vulnerable to corruption- and suggested some relevant revisions to the presentation of international financial statements. Hon. Cullen's presentation was a great success and seemed to resonate strongly with the Board.

In addition to working with regulatory bodies such as IPSASB, GOPAC will continue to examine ways in which to build and strengthen relationships with organizations around the world -like the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) - which are dedicated to improving resource revenue transparency. While achieving a change in international public accounting standards will not be an easy task, the efforts of GOPAC and other groups are creating increased recognition of the need for governments to publicly disclose their resource revenue. As support of this

initiative grows, organizations such as GOPAC are sending a strong signal to the international community that extractive industry transparency is fundamental to sound financial management and good governance.

***John Williams is Chair of GOPAC and former Chair of the Canadian Chapter. For more information on this Task Force, please contact Joshua McLaren at [willij@parl.gc.ca](mailto:willij@parl.gc.ca)***

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## United Nations Convention Against Corruption: The Importance of Parliamentarians and Political Will



By Dr. Naser Al Sane, MP (Kuwait)

A resolution of the GOPAC Global Conference in Tanzania outlined GOPAC's commitment to form a task force to promote the effective implementation of the UNCAC and also identify complementary improvements in the governance roles of parliamentarians.

I will be leading the Global Task force on the UNCAC and will have the honor of working with the other Task Force leaders, including César Jauregui, - the lead of the Parliamentary Oversight Task Force and my colleague from ARPAC, Ghassan Moukheiber – the lead of the Parliamentary Code of Conduct Task Force.

In December 2006, GOPAC participated in the first Conference of States Parties (Dead Sea, Jordan) for the UNCAC by organizing a Forum for Parliamentarians side meeting which focused on the vital role parliamentarians play in the ratification and implementation of the convention. The Jordan Parliamentary Forum took the step of identifying specific actions parliamentarians can take on the UNCAC. We look forward to continuing the work of the first Parliamentarian's Forum at the Second Conference of States Parties in Indonesia in early 2008 with the support of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNOC) - the organization responsible for providing practical assistance and building technical capacity to implement the UNCAC and, supporting Member States in the development of anti-corruption policies and institutions.

In follow up to the first COSP, a letter was sent to Speakers of each of the members of the IPU requesting further information on their UNCAC status and work plans for future UNCAC activities. Responses are being collected and documented by the ARPAC Secretariat.

In addition, with the support of the ARPAC Secretariat, we have undertaken two gap analysis studies of UNCAC related legislation in Kuwait and Lebanon. The studies will be ready by October 2007, and will be presented at the forthcoming ARPAC annual conference in Bahrain. It is expected that GOPAC's other regional chapters will carry out the two additional gap analysis.

The gap analysis studies aim to identify the gaps between actual Laws and Regulations in force a country with those principles set out in the UNCAC articles. The analysis also serves to promote the UNCAC as a reference for improving anti-corruption policies and increase general awareness of its possible implications. What is certain is that countries who are seriously committed to their obligations as set out by the Convention must conduct reviews their legal and institutional anti-corruption structures in order to evaluate their compliance with UNCAC and to identify potential need for reform.

***Dr. Al Sane is Vice Chair of GOPAC and Chair of the Arab Regional Chapter of GOPAC (ARPAC). For further information on the UNCAC Global Task Force, please contact Dr. Khalil Gebara, Executive Officer of ARPAC [kgebara@arpacnetwork.org](mailto:kgebara@arpacnetwork.org) or Meaghan Campbell, GOPAC Programs and Communications Consultant at [Campbme@gopacnetwork.org](mailto:Campbme@gopacnetwork.org)***

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