



# GOPAC News

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

IACC Meeting in Seoul, Korea  
May 2003

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter-national Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) will be held May 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> in Seoul, South Korea. IACC is an opportunity for public, private and civil society organisations to engage in frank, open and constructive discussions, learn best practices in an international perspective, meet fellow anti-corruption practitioners from all sectors and build new coalitions and networks. Information on the IACC meeting can be found at [www.11iacc.org/iacc/index.html](http://www.11iacc.org/iacc/index.html).

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

John Williams, Member of Parliament, Canada

In the last edition of GOPAC News, I had the pleasure of welcoming many Parliamentarians from around the world to the inaugural GOPAC conference, which was held in Ottawa, Canada from October 13th to 16th of last year.

I must say how pleased I was to meet many of you individually at the GOPAC conference and how much I appreciated your enthusiasm for the creation of GOPAC. I also appreciated your dedication by standing publicly against bribery and corruption and for a better world for our citizens. Over 150 parliamentarians from over 60 countries unanimously declared their commitment to "provide leadership in the fight against corruption...to strengthen the work of parliaments and parliamentarians."

Since the conference, the GOPAC Executive, Board of Directors and Secretariat have been implementing the decisions you made at the conference. The organization is now in the process of being incorporated under Canadian law. In addition, GOPAC is in the process of identifying and creating product lines which will engage Parliamentarians to be in the forefront of the fight against corruption. These product lines include:

- An anti-money laundering initiative;
- Draft Codes of Conduct for Parliamentarians; and
- Electoral Finance Reform

In addition to GOPAC's product-line development, the growth and development of regional and national chapters continues dramatically. Over the last four months, I have had the pleasure of meeting with many Parliamentarians from our various regional chapters at a number of forums. I am confident that our regional partners will continue to

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**There is strength in numbers. One voice can be silenced, but the voices of many will be heard.**

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develop the membership and momentum to grow their chapters and identify fellow Parliamentarians who want to work together in promoting good governance.

We cannot remain still, because we know when parliaments are ineffective in holding the government to account for its corruption it denies their citizens basic rights such as clean water, food, health, education

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and shelter. There are many examples in the world where a more effective Parliament could have a dramatic impact on society.

There is strength in numbers. One voice can be silenced, but the voices of many will be heard. We must continue

to be the collective voice as one voice for Parliamentarians who care about making their societies better.

John Williams is the Member of Parliament for St. Albert, Canada. He is also the Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

## PROBLEMS FACED BY ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVES IN POST SOVIET UNION COUNTRIES: UKRAINE

Volodymyr Stretovych, MP, Ukraine, Chair of NISPAC



There exist several causes of corruption in the former Soviet Union countries, including those that belong to Eastern-European region of GOPAC. Specific to the Ukraine, they include:

1. Heritage from the past (decades of soviet governing): This includes the lack of transparency and accountability in governance as a result of the unification of political and economical powers. Also, a strong desire to avoid working under new market legislations and former soviet bureaucrats in power who do not want, or just cannot work, under the new system.
2. Economic decline and political instability: Sharp decreases in the standard of living, shortage of industrial production and productivity, and, as a result low salaries in the state sector of the economy and state institutes led to spreading corruption.  
  
Political instability in the Ukraine means that corrupt officials are in the shoes of "Caliph of the moment." and for this moment (a month or a year) he/she can't resist the temptation to be corrupt in order to provide secured futures for their families.
3. Lack of appropriate and effective legislation: During the transition process, reform of the economic system was done faster than that of legislation. In addition, some institutional changes were conducted without clear legal regulations, as in the case of when "Edict law" was used - for this period enactment of economical legislation was blocked and substituted by President's Acts regulation.

From the soviet times, a legacy of bad governance has remained. It can be found in state functions of

resources distribution, the rate of export-import operations determination and fixation, issuing of licenses and so on. This legacy illustrates that state representatives always want to expand their influence and do it in such a way, which enables corruption.

An additional problem that remains from the Soviet era is that of private property rights. Today, Ukrainians are facing the problem of defining land ownership rights as announced in the new Land Code, which will be valid in 2005. Officials at all levels are trying to be alert for the new changes, but there is no equivalent legislative base for the new legislation and that is leading to the increase of corruption in this field.

Flawed legislation is a problem facing all parliamentarians and needs to be addressed. Suggestions towards eliminating inappropriate legislation include:

- a) Contradicting legislation - which even disagrees with itself, should be eliminated;
  - b) Inadequate laws, containing a lot of blank norms and which let by-laws and subordinate legislation have more power than the laws do, must be improved;
  - c) The absence of legally fixed procedures for preparation and enactment of legislation must be remedied through the creation of appropriate regulations.
4. Ineffectiveness of state institutions: Bureaucrats tend to be very uncomfortable with change. Despite looking for a minimized structure of governance, the state further develops bureaucracy. Inefficiency increases as a result of the system of governing becoming increasingly large and powerful. There is a clear connection here: the

more stages for solving problems that exist – the more possibility for corruption.

5. Weakness of civil society organizations creates a gap between authorities and society.
6. Infancy of democratic institutions: The infancy of the Ukraine's democratic institutions leads to:
  - a) Imperfection and, remnants of the old political culture;
  - b) Absence of political structure, when parties are unaccountable for their representatives;
  - c) Imperfection of election law and existence of single-mandate constituencies, which makes it possible "to buy" a constituency.
7. Degradation of moral values under the Soviet system: The Ukraine is only starting to recover from its "40 years of desert trespassing" which was very hard for our people. Naturally everyone wants to know the recipe of treatment for these problems. Firstly, we should always clearly know the main reasons, because knowing the root of the problem makes it easier to solve the problem itself.

We should always be alert and aware of the fact that every country has its historical, political and social specifics of development. Hence every country should develop a specified strategy on fighting corruption. Where suggestions can be made, we ought to point to the most important directions for activity, and among them are:

- Political will;
- Administrative reformation;
- Nongovernmental organizations support.



For these three main suggestions to work there must exist coordinated action that includes parliament, the executive branch, the judiciary system, media, private sector and international organizations and any other possible institution. All of these actors are needed; after all, our major goal is to fight the evil called corruption.

Mr. Volodymyr Stretovych is a Member of Parliament (Ukraine) and Interim Chair of the Newly Independent States Parliamentarians Against Corruption (NISAPAC)

### APNAC-Kenya Member in Plane Crash

On January 24, 2003 a plane carrying APNAC-Kenya member and newly elected Minister of Water Resources, the Honourable Martha Karua, crashed in Busia, Kenya. The chartered aircraft with 10 passengers and two pilots crashed at the Busia airstrip late in the evening, killing the Labour and Manpower Minister Ahmed Khalif and both pilots. Hon. Karua was injured but is recovering.

### Tanzania to Create a National Chair

February 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> will see the creation of a Tanzanian – APNAC chapter in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. With the generous support of UNDP, members of Parliament in Tanzania have been invited to participate in a workshop on the role of Parliamentarians in Fighting Corruption. APNAC – Tanzania Interim Chair Dr. Zainab Amir Gama will present an anti-corruption action plan and seek the support of her peers. Musikari Kombo (Chair, APNAC-Kenya) and Augustine Ruzindana (Chair, APNAC) will also be presenting. For more information on this workshop and APNAC – Tanzania please contact Dr. Zainab Amir Gama at [dr\\_gamaza@hotmail.com](mailto:dr_gamaza@hotmail.com).

## GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION

From October 13-16<sup>th</sup>, 2002 over 150 parliamentarians, 107-plus observers and parliamentary staff came to the Parliament of Canada (Ottawa, Canada) to discuss issues of corruption, parliamentary oversight and effective governance. Participants travelled from all of the continents of the world and were representative of all geographic regions.

The sheer success of the GOPAC conference demonstrated that parliamentarians from around the world believe that more needs to be done – and done by parliamentarians working together on building integrity in governance. Their first step was to create GOPAC. During the course of the conference, participants strengthened personal networks, reviewed and accepted the GOPAC constitution, elected a Board of Directors and Executive Committee, studied actions that could be taken by parliamentarians to fight corruption and build integrity and, took steps to create regional chapters.

The majority of delegates were pleased with the Global Conference. One participant commented: “The ability to network, share, learn and seek support is invaluable to what we can become. There is great hope.” Many were also satisfied with the substantive outcome. Mr. Con Sciacca MP (Australia) notably stated that he was ‘upbeat and bullish’ about the future of GOPAC as an organization. Observers from civil society organisations, international financial institutions, and bilateral donors also expressed optimism at the creation of GOPAC. Frederick Staphenurst of the World Bank noted the high degree of enthusiasm and dedication by participants.



**GOPAC Board of Directors**

GOPAC's potential remains strong. We congratulate and thank all of the participants at the Global Conference for an outstanding Global Conference and look forward to repeating its success in 2004.

### **GOPAC CONFERENCE DECLARATION**

- We the assembled parliamentarians declare our commitment to providing leadership in the fight against corruption.
- To help accomplish that objective, we have created GOPAC – the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption.
- GOPAC will serve as a global, action-oriented network to strengthen the work of parliaments and parliamentarians in fighting corruption.
- We leave this founding conference with enthusiasm and with determination to create regional and national chapters of GOPAC as the front lines in the fight against corruption.
- Adopted by parliamentarians at the founding conference of GOPAC, Ottawa, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October.

For a complete report of the Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, please contact Meaghan Campbell at [campbme@parl.gc.ca](mailto:campbme@parl.gc.ca) Tel: 613-237-0143 ext. 319 or see the GOPAC website at [www.parlcent.ca/gopac](http://www.parlcent.ca/gopac).



**David Kilgour Welcomes Global Delegates**

## NEWS FROM THE GOPAC SECRETARIAT



Since the Global Conference in October, the GOPAC Secretariat has been busy with the work of further developing GOPAC as a viable, international organisation. In addition to serving the GOPAC Board

of Directors and Executive Committee, we see serving and networking with members as our most important task. The GOPAC website ([www.parlcent.ca/gopac](http://www.parlcent.ca/gopac)) is the best way to reach our internationally based members and so, we are constantly looking for ways to improve the site and its services. In addition to maintaining updated information on GOPAC and its projects, we see it as linking you to important developments elsewhere, as a device to express your views on important issues of integrity in governance, and to connect with each other. We welcome your comments and observations as to how to improve this service, and the secretariat generally.

As you may know, the GOPAC Executive has decided to focus on 6 product lines over the next 2-3 years. We

are working with the World Bank Institute to update *Controlling Corruption: A Parliamentarian's Handbook* and plan to establish a team of GOPAC members to review the draft in the next three months. We are working on a proposal on money laundering and will be looking for a GOPAC team to work with Mr Roy Cullen from the Parliament of Canada to lead this work. We hope to initiate action in some of the other areas – financial oversight, code of conduct for parliamentarians, election financing, and performance indicators – in the next several months. Should you be interested in any of these product lines, please contact the GOPAC Secretariat staff.

As always, we welcome your comments and input. The GOPAC Secretariat may be contacted at:

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO APNAC-KENYA

In December of 2002, Kenya held federal elections. Political veteran Mwai Kibaki and his National Rainbow Coalition won a parliamentary majority in a landslide victory. Mr Kibaki said he would make the fight against corruption a priority and also promised to tackle Kenya's economic decline. A respected economist, Mr Kibaki served as finance minister and vice president in the 1970s and 1980s. He left Kanu in 1991 and founded the Democratic Party. Kibaki's victory marked the end of almost 40 years of uninterrupted rule by Kanu, and it was third time lucky for Mr Kibaki, who lost two elections in the 1990s.

The elections were a great success for APNAC-Kenya members as well. Twelve of the original twenty-one APNAC-Kenya members were elected into the new government and four became Ministers. Chair of

APNAC, Hon. Musikari Kombo is now Assistant Minister of Planning and National Development, Hon. Charity Kaluki Ngilu is Minister for Health, Hon. Martha Karua is Minister for Water Resources and Hon. Kiraitu Murungi is now Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Hon. Murungi has been busy in his new position, proposing three new pieces of legislation: Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Bill and the Public Officers Bill. The GOPAC Secretariat would like to congratulate all APNAC-Kenya members for their great achievement and continued dedication to the anti-corruption cause.

For more information on APNAC-Kenya, please contact Eve Lwembe at the APNAC-Kenya Secretariat [apnackenya@yahoo.com](mailto:apnackenya@yahoo.com).

## THE PIONEER WORK OF GOPAC: A RUSSIAN PERSPECTIVE

Valery Galchenko, MP, Russia and Chair of Parliamentarians for Parliamentary Control

Russian legislation based on fundamental human rights has been in practice for only ten years. Creation of a new legislative base to show transparency in the budget process has not been completed – we still have some serious work to do.

Significant progress has, however, been made with the passing of legislation dedicated towards fighting corruption and money laundering. The most fruitful legislation has been passed in the last 3 years, largely due to the election of a new president, President Putin. Russia has adopted a number of laws to improve the situation in the financial sphere; among them are the laws against corruption, against money laundering, against illegal income, and laws to ratify the International Convention on Money Laundering.

Russia has been treated for quite some time now as a country with a high level of corruption and there is a good reason to, however we now show the dynamics of resolving this problem. Russia has developed instruments of external independent financial control such as the accounting chamber of the Russian Federation. In the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, The Federation Council, a special commission on interaction with the accounting chamber has been established. In the Duma, the lower chamber, these functions are formed by the sub-committee of financial control that was set up in the Committee on budget and taxes.

I would like to emphasize here that all agencies engaged in financial control and fighting corruption, deal with irregularities and violations post-factum. This is typical of many countries and is probably due to traditions and practices. This is why we, as parliamentarians, should place the emphasis on the prevention of corruption. This way the word 'financial control' is not taken as a signal to start looking for ways and means for consolidating wrong doing and stealing money, but a description of an activity that aims at trading conditions for more effective dispersal of public funds in the interest of all citizens.

Since the very nature of, and roots that causes corruption are identical and transcend geographical borders, so should be essential relevant prevented measures. We should unite our efforts, combine our experiences, and make the most of opportunities offered by the Global conference as well as those opportunities that we will have in the future as GOPAC gains momentum and establishes itself.

This is why I would like to emphasize that the Russian side is very much interested in the establishment of GOPAC. We have a job to do and although it is difficult to be a pioneer, "when there is a will there is a way." We have a historical opportunity to make a difference and now we need to roll up our sleeves and get down to work.

## GOPAC REGIONAL UPDATES

### Europe

Interim Chair  
Giovanni Kessler (MP, Italy)

The European chapter will be meeting in the Spring/Summer of 2003 – most likely in Rome. At this Founding Conference, the European chapter will determine their chapter name, adopt a constitution, agree to a business plan and, elect the Executive Committee including a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. The European chapter has been busy contacting various NGO's based around Europe to discuss future linkages.

### Newly Independent States Parliamentarians Against Corruption

Chair  
Volodymyr M. Stretovych (MP, Ukraine)

NISPAC includes members of parliament from the Ukraine, Moldova, Byelorussia, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The NISPAC chapter held its inaugural meeting in February with over 50 members of parliament from the region attending. During the course of the meeting, NISPAC was officially created, a constitution was adopted and a Board of Directors nominated.

## GOPAC REGIONAL UPDATES

### Caucuses Countries Sub-Regional Chapter (Sub Chapter of NISPAC):

Interim Chair  
Londa Esadze (MP, Georgia)

A sub-chapter of the NISPAC regional chapter, the Caucuses Countries have undergone preliminary negotiations in regards to a number of items. Included domestic anti-corruption laws with international standards, and; measures for the reduction of corruption index in member states. A Board of Directors and Interim Steering Committee will be chosen at the NISPAC meeting in Ukraine.

### Parliamentarians For Parliamentary Control (Russia Chapter)

Chair  
Valery Galchenko (MP, Russia)

The Russian chapter was established and incorporated in the Spring/Summer of 2002. The Russian chapter enjoys the support of former and current MPs, members of the Duma and the Federation Council. 2003 is an election year for the parliament in Russia and the Russian Chapter plans to update their business plan to reflect this event.

### CanPAC

Interim Chair  
John Williams (MP, Canada)

The Interim Steering Committee for the Canadian Chapter has met several times to create a new national chapter constitution. There have been ongoing discussions with interested Members of Parliament from Canada and plans are underway for engaging Members from the United States.

The national chapter of CanPAC will hold a general meeting in March of 2003 at which time the chapter will officially be inaugurated and the constitution will be adopted. The Executive will be formally elected and future activities of the chapter will be discussed.

### Latin American Parliamentarians Against Corruption/Capitulo Regional de Parlamentarios Latinoamericanos contra la Corrupción

Chair  
Juan Adolfo Singer (MP, Uruguay)

The LAPAC (PLACC) regional chapter was launched in Sao Paulo, Brazil in September of 2002. More than twenty-five Latin American Parliamentarians from 10 countries agreed to the creation of the Latin American Chapter. Senator Juan Adolfo Singer of Uruguay was elected Chair and Norma Calero of Parlatino was elected Secretary.

The first meeting of LAPAC was held in Sao Paulo on November 6, 2002. Participants agreed to have an additional meeting to approve the constitution, rules and regulations in June of 2003.

### Caribbean (Anglophone)

Interim Chair  
Mary K. King

The Caribbean chapter of GOPAC has been actively informing and engaging members in the English speaking Caribbean of GOPAC. A regional meeting is planned for late March or early April.

### APNAC APNAC – Kenya

Chair  
Musikari Kombo (MP, Kenya)

As noted in the newsletter, Kenya members have been elected into the new government of Kenya. In addition to their busy schedules during and post-election, APNAC Kenya members have been promoting the mission of their national chapter. Hon. Musikari Kombo has been invited to Tanzania to contribute to the creation of a Tanzanian chapter and to the Anti-Corruption Commission of Zambia to discuss the "Role and Objectives of GOPAC and APNAC." In the future, APNAC Kenya plans to continue to hold workshops/public forums to discuss the current anti-corruption legislation before the parliament of Kenya.

## GOPAC REGIONAL UPDATES

### APNAC – Tanzania

#### Interim Chair

Dr. Zainab Amir Gama  
(MP, Tanzania)

The inaugural meeting of APNAC Tanzania was held in Dar es Salaam February 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> of 2003. The UNDP helped to support this meeting of all Tanzanian members of parliament on parliament's role in fighting corruption. APNAC's Chair, Augustine Ruzindana and Musikari Kombo, Chair of APNAC Kenya was present to provide support and information to the new national chapter.

### APNAC - Malawi

#### Interim Chair

Louis Chimango  
(MP, Malawi)

The Hon. Louis Chimango is currently working towards establishing an APNAC Malawi chapter.

### NEAPAC

#### Interim Chair

Kim Yong Hwan (MP, Korea)

The North East Asian Chapter plans hold a launch at the IACC Meeting in Seoul in May of 2003. The North East Asian Chapter will include Korea, China, Mongolia and Japan.

### Parliamentarians Forum Against Corruption (PFAC) (Korea)

#### Chair

Kim Yong Hwan (MP, Korea)

Since November of 2002, 27 members of parliament from Korea came together to form the Korean Chapter, called 'Parliamentarians' Forum Against Corruption.' Kim Yong Hwan was elected as its Chair. With a view to facilitating activities of the Korean Chapter, Mr. Kim will be holding a seminar at the 11<sup>th</sup> IACC meeting on "Parliamentarians Anti-Corruption Activities" in Seoul in March.

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