



GOPAC News

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CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS: GOPAC ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING INITIATIVE TEAM

In consultation with the Chair of the GOPAC Anti-Money Laundering Initiative (AMLII), Mr. Roy Cullen (MP, Canada), we are seeking GOPAC members to work with AML experts and organizations (such as FATF – the Financial Action Task Force associated with the OECD) to develop a global approach to combating money laundering and promote its practical implementation. The chosen team will be globally representative and committed to extending the Anti-Money Laundering regime beyond its current focus. If you are interested in participating in the AMLI Team, please contact Meaghan Campbell at campbme@parl.gc.ca.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

John Williams, Member of Parliament, Canada

GOPAC has experienced overwhelming interest from parliamentarians around the world who are becoming engaged in the campaign against corruption. Since GOPAC's inaugural conference in October 2002, parliamentarians have been actively creating chapters in their own nations or regions of the world. In the last year we have had the honour of welcoming the creation of three new regional chapters in North East Asia, Latin America, and the Newly Independent States which includes the Caucuses. In addition, national chapters were created in Canada, Nigeria, and Chad. We expect to see several new national chapters in South Africa, Brazil and Zimbabwe and hopefully others in the not too distant future.

the resulting restriction on travel. It was inspiring to witness so many parliamentarians and Ambassadors from different countries agree to work together and build the integrity of their parliaments and legislatures.

The Latin American Parliamentarians Against Corruption (LAPAC) brought together parliamentarians from seventeen different countries in June 2003 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to attend training workshops on building transparency and accountability in parliament and by doing so, fight corruption at its roots. The workshops were a tremendous success, and the attending parliamentarians officially adopted a regional chapter constitution and elected an Executive and Board of Directors. A special congratulations to Ms. Anel Townsend, Member of Parliament and Minister for Women's Affairs in Peru, for being elected Chair of LAPAC. All others who have accepted responsibility for guidance of LAPAC and their names and addresses are available on LAPAC's website at www.placc.org.

In May 2003 I was privileged to attend the inauguration of the North East Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (NEAPAC). Under the direction of Mr. Kim Young Hwan, a Member of Parliament from the Republic of Korea, parliamentarians from Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and Japan met to adopt a regional chapter constitution and elect a President of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Executive Committee. Unfortunately, the delegation from China was unable to attend due to the SARS epidemic and

The Newly Independent States (NIS) and the Caucuses also officially joined GOPAC. On February 22, 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine, Mr. Volodymyr Stretovych, a Ukrainian Member of Parliament, brought together over twenty parliamentarians from the

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region, to build a coalition of dedicated individuals who are willing to work together to fight corruption through an organization called Newly Independent States Against Corruption (NISAPAC). Mr. Stretovych was elected Chair of the Executive and Board of Directors and we are looking forward to working with NISAPAC on our common agenda of fighting corruption.

In addition to the creation of new chapters, GOPAC has been moving ahead with the development of our *product lines* such as the Anti-Money Laundering Initiative (AMLI), the development of a handbook for parliamentarians on *Controlling Corruption*, with the World Bank Institute. The GOPAC Executive and Board of Directors have also adopted several key motions to support several significant international anti-corruption initiatives including the Paris Declaration and the UN Convention on Combating Corruption. For further information about GOPAC's product lines and our other initiatives, I ask you to please visit our website at www.parlcent.ca/GOPAC.

GOPAC's momentum continues to build and we are now seeing real progress in developing an organization to fight corruption. Over the past year we have seen that there is strength in numbers, and that many voices

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will be heard. Congratulations to all the parliamentarians who have participated this last year, for your dedication and ongoing work to fight corruption. Together we will be 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.

GOPAC MEMBER FOUNDS CENTRE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE



Former parliamentarian and GOPAC member, Osita Igbe (Nigeria) has established the Centre for Good Governance in Abia State, Nigeria. The Center for Good Governance is a non-governmental organization, established in 2002, and is engaged in educating and

training of citizens on their rights and responsibilities, democratic principles, leadership accountability, transparency, empowerment of women, women leadership, anti-corruption and election fraud.

The Center is committed to making democracy work effectively in Nigeria by encouraging Nigerians to participate in the activities that will help to build the nation and the world at large.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Centre for Good Governance's mission is the promotion and consolidation of Good Governance and laying the foundation of a culture of good Governance amongst people – especially the elected office holders and

all other public and cooperate office holders. This will be pursued by designing and facilitating processes and programmes that will transform individuals and communities as the basis for good and reliable government. Through seminars, workshops, debates, forum community dialogues discussion etc. citizens will learn, participate and help in the building of a strong, reliable, and transparent democracy.

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THE SAFEGUARDS ARE IN THE DETAILS: PROPOSED SENATE BILL S2248

By Senator Edgardo Angara (MP, Philippines)



Today, the stench of corruption is the only constant in our public life.

Where it used to be a hyped newspaper headline, corruption is now a widespread cancer entrenched and institutionalized throughout the bureaucracy, attending official transactions big

and small. No official transaction is immune from it, no contract too small for dirty fingers and greased pockets. From the routine purchase of bond paper to the bidding of the major government infrastructure projects, to the hiring of consultants, nothing passes without a taint, or an envelope changing hands.

The system of procurement, which fuels the engine of government and the delivery of state services, has been a spawning ground for official corruption in the Philippines. Not far from our offices, is the black asphalt of an overpriced road, which text messages now refer to as the “*President Dioskupo Napakamahal Avenue*.” Half a billion pesos was lost in this road construction scam, the level of corruption of which has no parallel in the history of the country’s road construction.

THE WAGES OF CORRUPTION

What are the brutal wages of official corruption in the Philippines? Over the last 20 years, the World Bank estimates that some US\$48 billion was lost to official corruption. The US\$48 billion loss can almost cover our country’s external debt or pay for our entire budget deficit and provide a considerable surplus in return. For every peso spent on public service, between 20 to 50 centavos is lost to corruption.

The magnitude of the loss to corrupt procurement, by the government’s own estimate, is at least P22 billion a year, or twice the budget of the Department of Health. This is equivalent to 520 million textbooks for our school children or 63,000 new classrooms. Or, 1,500 kilometers of concrete farm-to-market roads, if we donot use the bidding procedures of the Public Estates Authority.

The stench of official corruption has a heavy bearing on how international watchdogs of good governance rate

the country. Transparency International’s recent survey said the Philippines was the 11th most corrupt nation in the world in 2002. That survey placed us in the global hall of shame. Or, on how Filipinos view the dark, shady side of government.

**Today, the stench of corruption is
the only constant in our public life.**

The latest survey shows that fifty percent (50%) of Filipinos perceive that there is a great deal of corruption in government. Ninety-eight percent (98%) can name a corrupt government agency outright. Seventy-eight (78%) readily name a government agency perceived as corrupt a few years back and judged as more corrupt today.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

The task of fighting official corruption should mean snuffing out its roots. This means plugging the holes and the gaps in the obsolete and fraud-prone public procurement system.

We all know by now this sordid fact: that of the four top activities of government where corruption is most rampant, three involve public procurement. These are building of roads, providing books to public schools and installing equipment in government offices.

Senate Bill 2248 proposes to overhaul the procurement rules, from the purchase of government supplies to the hiring of consultants to the bidding and award for government infrastructure contracts. The proposed reforms are aimed at promoting transparency and institutionalizing genuine competition. They seek to end the crippling delays in the procurement process – the same delays that open the windows for graft. The use of discretion in the bidding process will be limited, to rein in would-be-crooks. Discredited modes of awarding contracts – such as the simplified bidding used in choosing the contractor of the country’s costliest road project – will be history.

THE SAFEGUARDS ARE IN THE DETAILS.

What are the present rules and how do we propose to change them? The reforms in Senate Bill 2248 lie in the details – the proposed new rules of public procurement.

The first feature of the reform measure seeks to address the lack of competition and transparency in the procurement process. At present, advertising of Invitations to Bid is limited to publication in print media. This is open to manipulation by unscrupulous government officials to favor certain contractors and suppliers.

Perhaps few of us are strangers to anecdotes of contractors buying all printed copies of local newspapers to prevent circulation of the bidding announcements for local projects. This effectively limits competition to a few favored ones.

To level the playing field, we propose that, in addition to the utilization of print media with national circulation, bidding announcements be posted on the Internet website of the concerned agency as well as on the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) website. This makes the bidding announcement known all over the country and not limited within a particular locality or region.

Optimum use of information technology will also be harnessed. It will include the application of an electronic system of auditing bidding transactions in order to promote transparency and accountability.

The second key reform initiative is the adoption of a simple eligibility check method, veering away from the present complex and highly subjective, pre-qualification procedure. At present, prospective bidders undergo detailed and subjective pre-qualification. It is at this stage that unscrupulous members of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) can effectively limit the number of suppliers or contractors who can participate in the bidding.

Based on accounts of contractors and suppliers who participate regularly in government procurements, it is in the pre-qualification stage where “favorites” are practiced and enforced. At this point, without conducting any bidding yet, the winner is already known. Normally, the victor is the entity that can pay the “right” price.

To completely eliminate this evil practice, we propose to replace the present system with a method that uses a ‘Pass/Fail’ marking system where incomplete documents are given a ‘fail’ mark, while complete documents give bidders clearance to proceed to the next stage of the process. This proposal alone is expected to reduce the bid processing time for civil works, from 6 to 2 months for small contracts, and from 12 to 4 months for large contracts.

On the other hand, the bid processing time for the purchase of supplies/materials and goods will drop from 3 months to a mere 3 weeks for small contracts, and from 6 to 2 months for large contracts. This dramatic cut in processing time will inevitably result in a drastic reduction in opportunities for corruption.

The third major feature is the elimination of the floor price and the use of the approved budget for the contract as the ceiling price. A floor price is hardly efficient since it prevents the government from taking advantage of potential savings from lower bids. On the other hand, bids offered above the budget ceiling are a waste of government time and effort and will be automacted.

The fourth reform minimizes the discretion of the BAC members. At present, they decide on bid offers using the bases of quality and price. In reality, it is difficult to measure quality and its trade-off with price. It requires too much subjectivity, which in turn, exposes the process to legal challenges.

The DILG Fire Trucks Scam in 1999 is a case in point. When the contract was recommended for award to Columbian Motors Corporation, which ranked first in the bid evaluation, Daeyang, which ranked second, filed a complaint questioning the credibility of the bidding proceeding. This resulted in a Senate Blue Ribbon Committee investigation. Eventually, Columbia pulled out from the bidding, while Daeyang was awarded the contract.

To avoid this costly and unnecessary occurrence, we propose that BAC will no longer exercise discretion in the processing of bids. Instead, it will follow a clear two-stage eligibility criterion that separates the review of quality from the ranking of bid price. This way, protests from losing bidders will be minimized since the determination of the winning bid is straightforward and free from discretion.

Another key reform is the requirement of a 5-year warranty on civil works, and the imposition of cap on price adjustments and change orders.

Finally, and most importantly, is the adoption of open and competitive public bidding as the norm in all levels of government procurement. The use of alternative modes of procurement, such as limited source bidding, direct contracting, repeat order, shopping and negotiated procurement will be allowed only in well-defined

exceptional circumstances, whenever competitive public bidding cannot be reasonably applied.

Some may find these reforms groundbreaking. Undoubtedly, it is a strong solution, not for the weak. But in the light of our predicament, we cannot afford or be satisfied with anything less.

Senator Angara is a member of parliament from the Philippines and a key member of the South East Asian Chapter of GOPAC (SEAPAC). This article is an excerpt from his speech in the Philippines Senate Chamber on Bill 2248.

NEWS FROM THE GOPAC SECRETARIAT



The GOPAC Secretariat has been full of activity this summer. We are pleased to have our website updated on a regular basis and hope that you will visit the site for the most recent information about GOPAC (found at www.parlcent.ca/GOPAC) One highlight of our website is that the GOPAC Board of Directors and Executive Committee have been introduced to an on-line working space where they can conduct interactive meetings for the organisation.

Work began on two of the five product lines identified in last year's Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption. The first of our initiatives is called the Anti-Money Laundering Initiative (AMLI) lead by Roy Cullen, Member of Parliament, Canada, and a member of GOPAC. The AML initiative will seek to **extend the anti-money laundering regime** beyond its current focus – principally in Europe and North America and to develop effective strategies that parliamentarians can execute (e.g. promotion of the implementation of international treaties) to combat money laundering. Mr. Cullen, along with the GOPAC Secretariat, has been developing a work plan, key partnerships and possible funders for the initiative. We expect that an AMLI working group (consisting of 8-12 GOPAC members) will be formed this fall and continue to advance AMLI.

A working group dedicated to reviewing the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and developing a GOPAC response has also been formed. Co-chaired by Dr. Londa Esadze (MP, Georgia) and Senator Edgardo Angara (Philippines), the working group will create a GOPAC declaration highlighting key

features of UNCAC and the role of parliamentarians in fighting corruption. The GOPAC/UNCAC consists of GOPAC members and will play a vocal role in the ratification and implementation of the convention around the world.

In addition to AMLI and UNCAC, the GOPAC Secretariat plans to continue its work on the remaining three product lines, as identified in the Global Conference: Election Financing, Code of Conduct, and the Parliamentarians Handbook on Combating Corruption.

We are also pleased to announce that Ms. Charity Wakaba (Program Officer, Africa-Canada Parliamentary Strengthening Program, Parliamentary Centre) is now assigned to support the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (Meaghan Campbell, Program Officer, GOPAC will continue to be responsible for GOPAC-APNAC relations). Ms. Wakaba holds an M.A. in political science with a major in international relations. Her degree was part of a joint program between the Institute of Political Studies (Sciences-Po) of Lyon, France and the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University. Ms. Wakaba speaks fluent French and Swahili and has lived for long periods in Africa, Europe and North America and may be contacted at wakabc@parl.gc.ca. We welcome her to the GOPAC family.

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

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UK DRAFT CORRUPTION BILL

by Tom Levitt and David Heath (MP, UK)

In March 2003 the British government published its long awaited draft Corruption Bill. The Bill clarifies the existing law and gives consistent definitions of what corruption is, taking a comprehensive view of corrupt activities in all its guises.

It is the first major review of Corruption Law since 1889. The measure takes forward the process of bringing British law into line with recent international recommendations such as the OECD and GRECO have produced, prior to Britain's formal ratification of the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption.

Perhaps most significant to Parliamentarians, the Bill seeks to remove evidence of corruption from the protection of Parliamentary privilege. At present, if there is evidence cited on the floor of the House of Commons, for example, that an MP has behaved corruptly, it is inadmissible in a court of law. In future, MPs should not be able to rely on this protection – which dates back to the 17th century – from criminal prosecution for corruption.

There is a debate on how far this measure should go: should witnesses before select committees lose the same

immunity under the cloak of Parliamentary privilege? If so, would this discourage them from giving evidence of a potentially incriminating nature? What is a 'proceeding' in Parliament? Is it the written (or official) record or are radio and television recordings also covered?

It is our view that politicians have three roles to play in combating corruption: to legislate against it; to scrutinise it out of government activities; and to be seen to be above corruption ourselves. This Bill follows legislation on money laundering and international corruption to bolster the first role, whilst without its measures supporting the third one we cannot fully be trusted to perform the second.

A joint committee of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords is currently hearing the views of witnesses about the Draft Bill, which is available for scrutiny on the Home Office web site (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs/cm5777published.pdf>). They will publish a report later in the year which will lead to legislation, probably in the next Parliamentary session.

***Tom Levitt MP and David Heath MP
UK Delegates to GOPAC inaugural conference***

FINANCING DEMOCRACY: POLITICAL PARTIES, CAMPAIGNS, AND ELECTIONS

The Carter Center convened the conference "Financing Democracy: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections" in collaboration with the Organization of American States' Inter-American Forum on Political Parties. A group of government and political party leaders, prominent scholars, policy experts, private sector representatives, civil society leaders, media professionals and international organizations from the Western Hemisphere met for two and half days in plenary sessions and working groups to discuss the dilemmas of political financing. They offered their advice to The Carter Center's Council of Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Americas, a group of 35 leaders, ten of whom participated in the conference and another one of whom sent a representative.

PRINCIPLES FOR POLITICAL FINANCING

Rules on financing of political parties and campaigns will differ for each national context, but they should all promote the following basic principles:

Principles

- **Fostering stronger representative and accountable political parties:** In their representation and participation functions, political parties need access to adequate resources to function effectively and ethically.
- **Ensuring effective electoral competition:** Parties and candidates must have a fair chance to campaign for their ideas; access to the media and adequate resources is crucial. Unfair incumbency advantages

should be addressed and the use of state resources that are not made available to all candidates in the electoral campaign should be prohibited.

- **Promoting political equality and citizen participation:** Citizens, rich or poor, must have equal opportunity to participate in the political process and to support candidates or parties of their choice. Financial contributions are a legitimate form of support. Inequalities related to gender, race, ethnicity or marginalized populations should be compensated. The principle of one-person, one-vote must be preserved.
- **Preserving the integrity of the electoral process through transparency:** Voters need to be empowered to choose as autonomous and informed citizens, free from pressures, intimidation or seduction through economic benefits, and informed about the resources and support for candidates and parties.
- **Enhancing accountability and eliminating corruption:** Elected officeholders should represent their constituents as a whole and be free from financial dependence on a few. Donations should not be used to buy access to politicians or civil servants, personal favors (contracts, tax breaks, etc), or policy favors.
- **Strengthening rule of law and enforcement capacity:** There must be assurances of timely justice and an end to impunity in abuses of political financing. The enforcement of political finance laws and regulations requires the existence of independent oversight authorities and an effective system of sanctions to end impunity.

We recognize that each country has a different starting point, but all countries should move at an appropriate pace to achieve the following objectives and tools, derived from the principles.

Objectives and Tools

- **Invest in the democratic character of parties rather than long or negative campaigns.** The pressures of fundraising should be reduced by controlling the factors that escalate campaign costs. Measures could include limiting spending; shortening campaigns; providing equitable access to the media including free media time to the candidates during prime time; banning or capping paid political advertising; promoting public financing, eliminating inflammatory ads; adopting and enforcing prohibitions against vote-buying.
- **Improve transparency and reduce the influence of money by requiring disclosure of donations**

and expenditures. Parties and candidates should be required to publicly disclose itemized donations above certain amounts and their sources, including in-kind contributions, before and after the elections so that future undue influence by the donor could be assessed. Parties and candidates should make public audited reports of itemized expenditures on a regular basis, including in-kind expenses, with all funds flowing through identified bank accounts managed by specified individuals who can be held accountable. Media should be required to disclose standard advertising rates and to report discounts as political donations, and maintain advertising rates that do not exceed the commercial rates used between campaigns. Campaign contributions from foreign sources should be prohibited, with the exception of citizens living abroad, if allowed by national law. Campaigns and candidates should refuse donations from organized crime or drug trafficking.

- **Promote equity, participation and competition.** Mixed funding systems with a substantial public component are recommended. Public funds should be provided as a substitute for or a complement to private donations at all phases of the political and electoral process. Public funding for ongoing party activities and campaigns should be allocated by a mix of proportional rules and flat subsidies to all parties that meet reasonable thresholds. Large individual donations should be limited; small donations that the average citizen can afford should be encouraged, perhaps by offering tax credits; and voluntary media standards for balanced media coverage should be developed.
- **The institutions responsible for enforcement should provide both incentives and sanctions.** Oversight entities, whether electoral management bodies or judicial organs, should be independent, non-partisan, and equipped with sufficient human and financial resources and authority to enforce the country's laws. Without this, none of the other measures suggested here will be effective. Enforcement capacity should be developed for effective monitoring, investigating, and prosecuting, and include subpoena powers, whistleblower protection, and access to bank accounts. Sanctions should include remedial actions, fines, criminal prosecution, and denial of office and/or future access to public funding.

III. SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

In improving the financing of democracy, citizens' groups and international organizations have an

important role to play in helping achieve these principles. We urge the following:

Roles for International Organizations

1. The OAS Inter-American Forum on Political Parties, other international organizations, multilateral banks, and universities should sponsor research to help us better understand the contributing factors of campaign costs, the effectiveness of potential tools to control those costs, and the impact of new technology such as the internet and direct television programming. For example, conflicting information exists with regard to whether and how fast campaign costs are rising relative to GDP, and what the sources may be: television and radio advertising costs in modernizing campaigns; taxation systems; patronage politics and vote-buying in more traditional campaigns; internally democratizing parties; length of the campaign; the nature of the electoral system.
2. Hemispheric governments should adopt the Principles on Political Financing at the next Summit of the Americas, as a concrete measure to implement Article 5 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
3. Non-governmental organizations such as The Carter Center and Transparency International should work in collaboration with multilateral organizations such as International IDEA to develop a set of standards and benchmarks to assess progress on implementing these Principles.
4. The OAS and other organizations active in the region should provide assistance to member states to apply the Principles adopted, such as in the form of best practices and model laws, and advice from the OAS Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and other entities.
5. International party foundations and other organizations should continue to provide training and education for party members and electoral workers, but only in a manner consistent with national laws.
6. Governments should cooperate to help in tracing the international money trail of illicit political donations through off-shore tax havens, money laundering, and organized crime, and cooperate with each other to bring violators to justice. International assistance in training and capacity-building to trace illicit money is needed. Governments should codify these types of cooperation in international agreements. Governments should also amend money laundering legislation to require disclosure of cash transactions over a specific amount.

7. International agreements such as the OECD Convention Against Bribery and the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption should include corollaries or additional protocols prohibiting the bribery of political parties and candidates, and prohibiting foreign donations when they are illegal in domestic law.
8. International election observer missions should incorporate political finance as an element to be monitored.
9. Multilateral lending institutions should include political financing as an element within their rule of law and anti-corruption programs. Bilateral and multilateral organizations should expand efforts to help election management bodies, political parties, campaign contributors, and election monitors to comply with political finance laws.

Roles for Civil Society and Political Parties

1. Businesses should voluntarily adopt codes of conduct to disclose donations where laws do not yet exist requiring them to do so, or to disclose more fully where laws require only narrow disclosure.
2. Political parties and candidates should voluntarily adopt codes of conduct to fully disclose donations and expenditures where laws do not yet exist requiring disclosure, or to disclose more fully where laws require only narrow disclosure. Civil society organizations can encourage such codes.
3. The media should voluntarily adopt a code of ethics and norms that guarantees equitable treatment to the parties and candidates in electoral campaigns.
4. Civil society organizations and media should have independent and critical roles in monitoring campaign finance rules and publicizing violations, including monitoring expenditures and media coverage of campaigns, generating information and encouraging public debate.
5. Watchdog groups should explore the potential to use Access to Information laws to request information on donations and expenditures from political parties and corporations, and to ensure transparency in the use of state resources.
6. So that the media may support enforcement, expose corruption and produce transparency, libel laws should be amended to follow the principles laid down in the *New York Times v. Sullivan* case, insult laws should be repealed, and the assault or murder of journalists should be investigated immediately and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

CREATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR DEMOCRACY...

On February 4-5, 2003 the National Endowment for Democracy hosted a meeting of parliamentarians in Washington, D.C. to discuss creating an "International Movement of Parliamentarians for Democracy." Twenty-four parliamentarians from fifteen countries participated in the meeting. The participants agreed to create a Movement of like-minded parliamentarians that is devoted to advocating for democratic reforms and challenging undemocratic practices, including the defense of parliamentarians who are denied their seat, face harassment, or are otherwise prohibited from fulfilling their elected duties.

The group has issued a declaration that has now been signed by eighty-nine Members of Parliament that commits parliamentarians to working together to advance democracy around the world and to challenge undemocratic practices, political oppression, the violation of human rights, and government corruption. The next meeting of the group will take place at the world Movement for Democracy Assembly in Durban, South Africa in February 2004.

GOPAC

Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
Organisation mondiale de parlementaires contre la corruption
Organization Mundial de Parlamentarios Contra la Corrupcion

STATEMENT

GOPAC Endorsement of the Paris Declaration

On behalf of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), I am pleased to join with citizens from around the world to endorse the Paris Declaration Against Corruption.

Corruption steals not just the money, but also the basic elements of life: clean water, housing, education and health care from entire countries. Most of all, it steals the hopes and the dreams of millions of people, and consigns them to a life of misery.

Parliamentarians have a constitutional responsibility, on behalf of their citizens, to hold their governments accountable for their actions in an open and transparent way. Through GOPAC, Parliamentarians will tackle the problem of corruption at its' root – unaccountable government.

Therefore, the executive of GOPAC on behalf of its members endorses the Paris Declaration and joins with those who have signed the declaration in solidarity against the evils of bribery and corruption, for a better world.

Dated Ottawa, Canada, the 13th of June, 2003.

John Williams, M.P.

Chair, Global Organization of Parliamentarians
Against Corruption (GOPAC)

www.parlcent.ca

GOPAC REGIONAL UPDATES

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK AGAINST CORRUPTION (APNAC)

Chair: Augustine Ruzindana (MP, Uganda)

The first half of 2003 has been a busy time for the APNAC organisation. A regional learning workshop took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2003 in conjunction with the ADB, World Bank and Transparency International. Visits to other national chapters to share lessons learned and best practices were conducted. Finally, meetings of the Interim Steering Committee were conducted both via videoconference and in person.

An African regional conference will take place November 3-4, 2003 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference theme will be *New Parliamentary Challenges in Fighting Corruption*.

APNAC KENYA

Chair: Musikari Kombo (MP, Kenya)

APNAC Kenya members were key in passing two key pieces of anti-corruption legislation in the Kenyan legislature. The Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act (2003) and the Public Officer Ethics Act (2003) help to establish the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission and put in place effective Codes of Conduct and mechanisms for the declaration of wealth by public officers.

In the first half of 2003, APNAC Kenya contributed their expertise in combating corruption to a number of national level seminars. Hon. Musikari Kombo was a resource person for the Zambian Parliament while Hon. Jimmy Angwenyi represented the organisation at a workshop with the Ethiopian parliament. APNAC Kenya members were also present at the International Anti-Corruption Conference in Seoul Korea this past May.

APNAC Kenya will play a significant role in hosting the upcoming APNAC regional conference in conjunction with APNAC and the Parliamentary Centre.

APNAC UGANDA

Chair: Sarah Nyombi (MP, Uganda)

APNAC Uganda held elections for its new Executive in March of 2003. Sarah N. Nyombi was elected Chairperson. Vice-Chair is the Hon. Kabakumba and L. Masiko, Secretary General is the Hon. Martin Wandera, Publicity

Secretary is now the Hon. Sylvia N. Ssinabulya and the Hon. Beatrice Rwakimari is the Treasurer.

The new executive as well as other APNAC Uganda members will be participating in the upcoming Anti-Corruption week scheduled for October 2003.

NORTH EAST ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (NEAPAC)

Chair: Kim Yong Hwan (MP, Korea)

The North East Asian Chapter (NEAPAC) of GOPAC held its inaugural meeting in Seoul, Korea from May 25 to 28, 2003. Twenty-two former and current parliamentarians from Korea, Japan, Mongolia were in attendance as was the GOPAC Chair, Mr. John Williams and other dignitaries.

Attendees adopted a Constitution, Rules and Regulations of NEAPAC as well as a Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Mr. Yong Hwan Kim was elected President of the Board and Chair of the Executive Committee. NEAPAC's Secretariat will be located at the office of PFAC, the Korean Parliamentarian's Forum Against Corruption.

SOUTH PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION

Interim Chair: Con Sciacca (MP, Australia)

Hon. Con Sciacca (MP, Australia) is currently acting as Interim Chair of the South Pacific regional chapter. Parliamentarians from New Zealand plan to join SPPAC under the leadership of Ross Robertson (MP, New Zealand).

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL (RUSSIA CHAPTER)

Chair: Valery Galchenko (MP, Russia)

Despite the upcoming elections in Russia, the Russian chapter has been active working with the Accounts Chamber. Eleven reports were analysed and two of these reports were discussed in Committee as well as the plenary session of the State Duma.

NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (NISAPAC)

Chair: Volodymyr Stretovych (MP, Ukraine)

NISAPAC includes members of parliament from the Ukraine, Moldova, Byelorussia, Georgia, Armenia and

Azerbaijan. Since January of 2003, NISPAC has held a constituent assembly, produced a work plan and has begun the process to establish NISPAC as a legal identity.

Future activities for NISPAC include fundraising and a Board of Directors meeting in the latter part of 2003.

CAUCUSES SUB-REGIONAL CHAPTER

Interim Chair: Londa Esadze (MP, Georgia)

The Caucuses Chapter of GOPAC has elected an interim steering committee. They are: Interim Chair Londa Esadze (MP, Georgia), Zakaria Kutsnashvili (MP, Georgia), Ali Huseinov (Azerbaijan) and Victor Dalakian (MP, Armenia). The Interim Steering Committee has been a dynamic force in providing information exchange on current legislative issues with special attention to anti-corruption laws and, coordinating actions on the sessions of the parliamentary assemblies of the Council of Europe and the OSCE in regards to anti-corruption measures.

Due to the upcoming elections in Georgia and Azerbaijan, the Caucuses Sub-Regional Chapter will not be conducting any special activities in the upcoming months, until the new parliaments are elected.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (CANPAC)

Chair: John Williams (MP, Canada)

The Canadian Chapter of GOPAC met several times in the first half of the year to discuss and adopt the chapter's constitution. On May 6th, (2003) CanPAC was officially launched, a Board of Directors was elected and the constitution formally adopted.

Due to the July and August recess of the Canadian federal parliament, the Canadian chapter did not resume planning future activities until September 2003. The CanPAC Board of Directors and members look forward to building an active national chapter and will work towards developing a coalition with parliamentarians with the United States.

LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (LAPAC)

Chair: Anel Townsend (MP, Peru)

In June of 2003, LAPAC held its third general meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil in cooperation with Parlatino and the World Bank. Over sixty parliamentarians from Argentina, Aruba, Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela were in attendance in addition to international anti-corruption experts from international organisations such as the OAS and the World Bank.

A number of workshops were conducted focusing on issues such as financial transparency and the use of committees. LAPAC members also elected a new Executive Committee. They are:

- President: Congresista Anel Townsend (Perú)
- Vice President: Sen. César Jáuregui (México)
- Secretary: Dip. Federico Vargas Ulloa(Costa Rica);
- Treasurer: Dip Maria del Carmen Falbo (Argentina)
- Vocal: Dip Fernando Rodríguez Calvo (Bolivia)

The new executive plans to focus on developing a comprehensive work plan for the organisation.

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