

Declaration for the Fifth Forum of Parliamentarians 27 November 2013

Held in conjunction with the Fifth Conference of States Parties
to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

WE THE PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE WORLD, assembled by the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, at the Fifth Forum of Parliamentarians, parallel to the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (the Convention), in Panama City, Panama, on 27 November 2013:

COMMEND those Member States of the United Nations that have ratified the UNCAC;

RECALL AND RENEW our consistent support for the universal adoption, ratification, and implementation of the Convention, expressed at Forums of Parliamentarians held at every Conference of States Parties since the Convention's inception;

DEPLORE the unacceptable harm, suffering, and injury that corruption visits upon individuals, institutions, societies, states, and the common good of all humanity;

ACCEPT our responsibilities as representatives of the peoples of the world to combat corruption in all its forms, by defending the rule of law, ending impunity, and upholding the responsibilities set out under the Convention;

AND AGREE that the most severe forms of corruption, **grand corruption**, have such dire effects on the material and mental well-being of populations and on the integrity of international systems, as to constitute serious attacks against human dignity and universal human rights—attacks that shock the conscience of the community of nations and that perpetrators of these attacks cannot be allowed to evade justice.

THEREFORE, WE RESOLVE to encourage states to enact and implement laws that place crimes of **grand corruption** under universal jurisdiction, within the responsibilities of their national law enforcement agencies, national prosecutors, and national courts;

AND WE FURTHER RESOLVE to encourage regional courts to accept and enforce jurisdiction to adjudicate crimes of **grand corruption** committed in their respective geographic regions of responsibility;

AND WE FURTHER RESOLVE to encourage states, the United Nations, and international institutions to deem crimes of **grand corruption** as crimes against the common community of humanity in violation of peremptory norms and international law;

AND WE FURTHER RESOLVE to encourage states, the United Nations, and international institutions to recognise crimes of **grand corruption** as being crimes against humanity;

AND WE FURTHER RESOLVE to encourage states, the United Nations, and international institutions to develop additional international mechanisms to apprehend, prosecute, judge, and sentence those who have committed crimes of **grand corruption**.
