



GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DE PARLAMENTARIOS CONTRA LA CORRUPCIÓN
المنظمة العالمية للبرلمانيين ضد الفساد

Fifth Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption

Manila, Philippines

31 January – 2 February 2013

Conference Declaration

and

Global Task Force Resolutions

THE MANILA DECLARATION

DECLARATION OF THE FIFTH GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION

We, the members of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, representing parliaments from 67 countries;

GATHERED here in Manila, Philippines from 31 January to 2 February 2013 for the Fifth Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption;

AFFIRM that good governance is humanity's shared aspiration;

ACKNOWLEDGE that individual states and the international community should have the mandate and the means to bring the corrupt to justice;

RECOGNIZE that the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which came into force in 2005, is the first legally binding and internationally accepted anti-corruption instrument;

DETERMINE to arrive upon common principles and shared strategies for combatting corruption, promoting good governance and upholding the rule of law;

DO HEREBY RESOLVE THAT PARLIAMENTARIANS SHALL:

1. Promote the comprehensive implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) within their respective jurisdictions;
2. Commit to an annual local review of the UNCAC and ensure the results thereof are recognized and shared with the citizenry in an open and transparent manner;
3. Impress upon fellow parliamentarians the importance of their active participation in the implementation of the UNCAC;
4. Recognize the role of both men and women parliamentarians in implementing change in and outside parliament;
5. Establish and enforce Codes of Ethics and Conduct within their ranks;
6. Work for the institutionalization of anti-corruption mechanisms, particularly on the recovery and restitution of assets stolen from populations;
7. Seek the widespread adoption of legal instruments that obligate states to cooperate against corruption and enable the international community to prosecute perpetrators; and
8. Encourage broader participation from all segments of society in the fight against corruption.

Done in the City of Manila, Philippines, 2 February 2013.

**United Nations Convention Against Corruption Global Task Force
Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
31 January to 2 February 2013**

Understanding the deep seated harmful impact corruption has on individuals, societies and institutions, the damaging global imprints of the problem and of our responsibilities as parliamentarians to ensure transparency and accountability to fight corruption, which includes the responsibilities, set out under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption Global Task Force (GTF-UNCAC) resolves to:

- Enhance the capacity of parliamentarians to localise the UNCAC by helping adapt international standards to national needs and to play an important oversight role in the monitoring and review of the national effort to implement the UNCAC.
- Encourage parliamentarians to ensure that there is an annual review mechanism in place and that the Review Mechanism Report is tabled in parliament and shared in a transparent manner.
- Expand parliamentary representation at the Conference of States Parties and other international meetings on the UNCAC to advance popular understanding and support of the Convention as well as to emphasize the Convention's ability to advance public accountability through public representatives.
- Urge parliamentarians to work with international organizations, civil society organizations such as the UNCAC Coalition on anti-corruption initiatives.
- Develop resources by providing information, tools and guidance to parliamentarians on how to strengthen anti-corruption strategies and support the implementation and evaluation of the UNCAC at national levels.

**Parliamentary Oversight Global Task Force
Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
31 January to 2 February 2013**

Recognizing that effective, open and transparent parliamentary oversight is essential for good governance and combating corruption; and

Further recognizing that benefits from public resources, including public natural resources, should be enjoyed by citizens of that country;

The Parliamentary Oversight Global Task Force (GTF-PO) members resolve to:

- Promote and disseminate the Congressional Oversight and Anti-Corruption resources being produced by the GOPAC Secretariat in partnership with the World Bank Institute and the Office for the Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy. Where applicable, hold capacity development workshops to familiarize legislators with these tools.
- Develop a support network for newly elected parliamentarians to understand the role they can play in the international anti-corruption movement by contributing to induction training courses for newly elected legislators.
- Strengthen relations between GOPAC and other organizations and legislators that work on oversight issues.
- Strengthen relations between legislators and oversight bodies.
- Support the creation of Public Accounts Committees where they do not exist; encourage the independence of all PACs, including having opposition members as chairs.
- Consistent with the Busan process, explore the possibility of producing and providing guidelines for donor organizations to support their work within recipient countries by engaging with parliamentarians, so that the design of projects are responsive to the countries developmental needs and adequate parliamentary oversight can be exerted over donor funded programs and projects.
- Ensure that legislators have peer support to understand contracts, ensure contract transparency, and to provide template legislation for reference.
- Ensure that the task force continues to work collaboratively with related initiatives, such as Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Revenue Watch Institute, Publish What You Pay and others.
- Champion a global initiative, with the purpose of enhancing probity in the public procurement and asset disposal processes, that will result in the enactment of minimum legislative thresholds for public procurement and asset disposal processes in all countries.

**Anti-Money Laundering Global Task Force
Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
31 January to 2 February 2013**

Recognizing the enormous financial loss as a result of the laundering of corrupt money and the challenge of recovering stolen national assets; and its severely negative impact on poverty alleviation and political stability;

The Global Task Force on Anti-Money Laundering (GTF-AML) resolves to:

- Develop resources for diagnostic use in potential countries of focus and provide information, tools and guidance to parliamentarians on how to strengthen AML regimes.
- Aid the efforts of parliamentarians to recover stolen corrupt assets by providing those parliamentarians with peer support, guidance, access to technical information, and best practices, to enable them to set-up domestic legislation and initiatives.
- Continue to roll out the GOPAC AML Action Guide for Parliamentarians via national and regional workshops in order to enhance the capacity of the parliamentarians to strengthen their respective national anti-money laundering regimes and recover stolen assets.
- Advocate for the requirement that all financial institutions and intermediaries demand a binding legal declaration of *beneficial ownership* for all deposits and other financial transactions, with sanctions for non-compliance.

**Participation of Society Global Task Force
Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
31 January to 2 February 2013**

Recognizing that all members of parliament have a responsibility to represent the views of their constituents and to ensure that no group within their society is marginalized or excluded from political, socio or economic processes; and

Acknowledging that Article 13 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) calls on each State Party to take appropriate measures to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of the threat posed by corruption;

The Participation of Society Global Task Force (GTF-PoS) resolves to:

- Enhance the capacity of parliamentarians to fulfil their responsibilities to represent their constituents, engage positively with the public and work effectively with civil society, through the introduction of Participation of Society workshops and other tools such as research material, model legislation and action plans;
- Continue to build, strengthen and formalize substantive partnerships with key civil society organizations active in the fight against corruption, and to work collaboratively with interested parties at the global, regional and national levels;
- Work with civil society partners to develop model legislation aimed at providing access to information and protecting the rights of individuals who take a stand against corruption;
- Develop public communication strategies aimed at raising awareness of corruption issues, including the existence and contents of UNCAC, and diminishing public tolerance of corruption in our societies; and

Include representatives of civil society partners as active members of the GTF-PoS.

**Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct Global Task Force
Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
31 January to 2 February 2013**

Recalling the unique functions performed by Parliaments and parliamentarians to represent citizens, vote on laws, oversee and hold the executive to account, position them to have great potential in preventing and fighting corruption;

Observing that in order to maintain their integrity and gain the necessary level of public trust in discharging these important public interest functions, parliamentarians should uphold and demonstrate high standards of ethics and conduct;

Recognizing that effective parliamentary systems of ethics and conduct can deter and sanction specific cases of unethical behaviour by parliamentarians in the broader context of preventing and fighting corruption;

Recognizing also that effective systems of ethics and conduct enhance the public's level of trust in the democratic political system in general, and in parliaments and their members in particular, which is greatly influenced by perceived and real corruption;

Noting that Article 8 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, provides for the development of 'Codes of Conduct for Public Officials';

Having reviewed the activities performed by the Global Task Force on Parliamentary Ethics and Conduct ("GTF-PEC"), particularly its production and publication, in many languages, of a Handbook of Parliamentary Systems of Ethics and Conduct ("the Handbook");

Now therefore, the GTF-PEC resolves to:

- Note with appreciation the drafting and publication by the GTF-PEC of a Handbook on Parliamentary systems of Ethics and Conduct.
- Urge GOPAC members to disseminate it widely and implement its recommendations at global, regional and domestic levels to develop effective and comprehensive systems of ethics and conduct.
- Maintain the GTF-PEC to implement its strategy and action plan on global, regional and domestic levels to:
 - Develop knowledge and materials on Parliamentary systems of ethics and conduct.
 - Build capacity of parliamentarians to develop, enact and implement systems of ethics and conduct consistent with their respective political and cultural contexts, at the same time, adhering to fundamental international standards.
 - Develop GTF-PEC capacity, partnerships and organizational effectiveness.

Women in Parliament Network

Resolution at the GOPAC Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption 31 January to 2 February 2013

Recognizing that men and women bring different perspectives to many socio, economic and political issues, and that the political participation of women is a necessary requirement for good governance; and

Acknowledging that, while progress has been made in increasing the number of women in decision-making positions, the number of female legislators is still not reflective of the gender balance of our global society;

The GOPAC Women in Parliament Network (WPN) resolves to:

- Provide a network of support, including workshops and other activities, aimed at enhancing the capacity for women parliamentarians to participate actively in the fight against corruption;
 - Encourage other women's caucuses in parliaments to become more engaged on issues of corruption;
 - Work with partners such as the UN, the Inter Parliamentary Union, Transparency International and academic institutions to share existing material and to conduct additional research on the impact of corruption on women; and
 - Examine case studies highlighting barriers and incentives to female participation in the political process and disseminate lessons learned.
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