GOPAC Calls for Action Against International Money Laundering as G20 Leaders Gather in St Petersburg

OTTAWA, CANADA—(Marketwired - Sept. 5, 2013) - The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) today launched Transparency Through Beneficial Declarations, a position paper that lays out concrete and effective steps that nations can take to stop international money laundering, and to thwart the criminal enterprises money laundering supports: organized crime, terrorism, and despotic regimes.

GOPAC is urging governments at the G20 Leaders’ Summit in St. Petersburg to require their financial institutions to demand a legal Declaration of Beneficial Ownership for all financial transactions. Such declarations will strip criminals of the anonymity they use to disguise or obscure ill-gotten funds.

"Legislators from around the world have the power to curb money laundering and reduce the over $1 trillion that is lost to money laundering every year," said the Chair of GOPAC’s Anti-Money Laundering Task Force, Sen Teofilo Guingona III. "Declarations of Beneficial Ownership will go a long way to help dissuade people from involving themselves in corrupt practices and hinder illicit money from entering the financial system."

The position paper provides for a fair and balanced distribution of responsibilities by requiring financial institutions to obtain Beneficial Ownership Declarations and depositors to provide the necessary information.

A copy of the position paper is available for download on the GOPAC website:

GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law. Based in Ottawa, Canada, GOPAC has 54 national chapters on 5 continents. GOPAC supports its members’ efforts through original research, global anti-corruption capacity building, and international peer support. Visit GOPAC on the web at www.gopacnetwork.org, on Twitter at www.twitter.com/GOPAC_Eng, and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gopacnetwork.

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