

UN called on to establish international corruption court

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(Antara)

The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) has called on the United Nations to establish an international court on corruption following the issuance of the Yogyakarta Declaration on Thursday.

"We recommend that the United Nations consider the establishment of a new protocol in the United Nations Convention against Corruption [UNCAC] to establish an international court on corruption for the prosecution of perpetrators and collaborators of large-scale corruption," said GOPAC vice chair Osei Kyei Mensah Bonsu during the forum's closing ceremony in Yogyakarta, Central Java, on Thursday.

The declaration, which was received by acclamation by all GOPAC members, affirmed that corruption, especially large-scale corruption, is a global tyrant that robs citizens of fundamental human rights and undermines the ability of states to protect the most vulnerable in society.

"In order to deter and fight corruption, particularly large-scale corruption, the world needs strong international mechanisms, cooperation and collaboration," said Bonsu.

The Yogyakarta Declaration also recommends that the UN Conference on Climate Change on Nov. 30 in Paris adopts commitments that will cover governance and anticorruption measures.

As the newly elected GOPAC chair, House of Representatives deputy speaker Fadli Zon said that GOPAC has an obligation to emphasize the work of international instruments, particularly UNCAC, as the tool in combating large-scale corruption. GOPAC will also seek more solid and stronger political support from those states that have become parties to the UNCAC.

Meanwhile, near the venue, activists from the Anticorruption Civil Society Coalition and the Indonesian Women's Anticorruption Movement held a demonstration to protest the draft revision of Law No. 30/2002 on the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) proposed by the House that might lead to the weakening of the KPK. (kes)(+++)