



For Immediate Release

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News Release

GOPAC Initiates Efforts to Prosecute Grand Corruption as a Crime Against Humanity

Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption

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GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law.

Ottawa, Canada – The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) has released [*Prosecuting Grand Corruption as an International Crime*](#) to frame options for international prosecution of the perpetrators of the worst crimes of corruption.

The document will serve as the centrepiece of deliberations amongst the world's parliamentarians, at the fifth [Forum of Parliamentarians on 27 November 2013](#), held during the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption, in Panama City.

“We believe there are some forms of corruption so grave, whose effects on human life, human rights, and human welfare are so catastrophic, that they should shock the conscience of the international community and mobilise the will of nations to act across borders,” said Akaash Maharaj, Executive Director of GOPAC. “Through this initiative, we will stand together and stand against these injustices.”

GOPAC proposes four potential paths for prosecuting grand corruption: the International Criminal Court; national courts with universal jurisdiction; regional courts; and/or new mechanisms. The deliberations in Panama City will help decide which paths GOPAC will pursue.

At the February 2013 Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption held in the Philippines, GOPAC's worldwide network of parliamentarians voted unanimously to seek the widespread adoption of international legal instruments and strategies to apprehend, prosecute, judge, and sentence perpetrators of grand corruption - the gravest forms of corruption.

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 49 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 gopacnetwork.org, on Twitter at twitter.com/GOPAC_Eng, and on Facebook at facebook.com/gopacnetwork

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