GOPAC and the Parliamentary Network Partner to Fight Corruption in Development Aid

Ottawa, Canada – The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) and the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (the Parliamentary Network) are calling on parliamentarians around the world to help fight corruption by improving oversight in the management of development aid. To support parliamentarians, they have launched Guidelines to Strengthen Oversight Through Parliamentarian-Donor Collaboration.

“Corruption in development aid is naked theft from the most destitute and most vulnerable people on earth” said GOPAC Executive Director, Akaash Maharaj. “Our guidelines will help parliamentarians around the world ensure that donor funds are used only for their intended purposes, and that those who would prey upon development aid are brought to justice.”

GOPAC and the Parliamentary Network created the Guidelines in consultation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The Guidelines include 14 recommendations on: collaboration between parliamentarians and donor organizations; regulatory frameworks on the management of funds; and the building of institutional oversight capacity. The Guidelines will also help parliamentarians vigorously scrutinize foreign loans and donor-sponsored assistance programmes, and collaborate with international financial institutions to ensure that all stages of loan negotiations are subject to democratic accountability.

“At a time when many donor nations are looking closely at domestic budgets and opportunities to consolidate deficits, it is essential that taxpayers know development aid is reaching the world’s poorest. These guidelines will help give that confidence,” said Jeremy Lefroy MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Network. “G8 nations are also pledged to spend 0.7% of GNI on development aid and as we seek to increase aid flows to tackle extreme global poverty these recommendations will help ensure that money works as hard as it possibly can to deliver that aim.”

The Parliamentary Network is an independent, non-governmental organization that provides a platform for parliamentarians from over 140 countries to advocate for increased accountability and transparency in development cooperation.

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

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