

## **DECLARATION**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> FORUM FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS**

#### **Conference of the States Parties Doha, Qatar, November 10, 2009**

WE THE PARLIAMENTARIANS (members of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption and other participating parliamentarians) gathered at the third Forum for Parliamentarians, parallel to the 3rd Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter, CoSP or the Conference) to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (hereinafter, UNCAC or the Convention) in Doha, Qatar on November 10, 2009;

ARE DEEPLY AWARE of the enormous negative impacts of corruption on people and institutions, the global nature of the problem and of our responsibilities as parliamentarians to serve the public interest, which includes the responsibilities set out under the Convention;

ACKNOWLEDGE AND COMMEND those Member States of the United Nations which have signed and ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC);

ARE INFORMED of the rich debate of the Conference on the establishment of a mechanism to review the implementation of the Convention with a particular emphasis to be placed on the transparency of such mechanisms for the prevention of corruption;

RECALL the 2006 Forum of Parliamentarians at the Conference of States Parties at the Dead Sea, Jordan which identified complementary steps parliamentarians could take, such as strengthening parliamentary oversight and parliamentary ethical conduct; and the 2008 Forum of Parliamentarians at the Conference of States Parties at Bali, Indonesia which identified ways that parliamentarians could support, in a sustained manner, the implementation of governance improvements needed to prevent corruption;

Note that prevention of corruption which in large measure depends on good and accountable governance is central to parliamentarians' constitutionally defined responsibilities for representation, legislation and oversight;

WE THEREFORE COMMIT to support the successful implementation of UNCAC by carrying out our responsibilities consistent with the obligations as set forth in the Convention by:

1. **engaging citizens and civil society** in our respective countries, representing their concerns and helping them develop an understanding of the negative effects of corruption and the importance of effective implementation of the UNCAC (and related international conventions) and ensure their participation in the UNCAC review mechanism at the country level;
2. **embedding the provisions of UNCAC** in legislation and domestic governance practices and values, and where the passage of legislation is required, help develop coalitions to pass such legislation;
3. **reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of the implementation of UNCAC** through parliamentary hearings and review of government documentation related to implementation;

4. **working with international expert and donor agencies** to support the UNCAC, including but not limited to tailoring their technical assistance to implement governance improvements – including those within parliament itself – related to effective corruption prevention;
5. **improving parliamentary financial oversight** of public resources and ensuring appropriate checks and balances for the work of anti-corruption agencies; and
6. **promoting institutional and personal behaviour of parliamentarians** consistent with international standards for ethical conduct and for carrying out their constitutional responsibilities.

WE CALL UPON:

- the **Conference of States Parties** to include a Forum of Parliamentarians as a continuing complement to the future Conferences of States Parties, thereby recognizing the important role of the parliamentary branch of government in implementing the provisions of the Convention and combating corruption;
- **individual States Parties;**
  - to ratify the Convention where they have not yet done so;
  - to fully implement it and adopt it;
  - to participate in the review mechanism to assess openly and transparently the implementation of this Convention in conjunction with their national parliament; and
  - to include parliamentarians as full participants to the Conference of the States Parties;
- **donor agencies and development assistance organizations** to help strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians to support UNCAC by facilitating the formulation of tools and the holding of knowledge-sharing events and to recognize the benefits of parliamentary financial oversight and transparency;
- **GOPAC**, a co-organizer of the first three Forums for Parliamentarians held in the context of the Conferences of States Parties, to:
  - a) establish partnerships with international organizations and others to work together on enhancing the knowledge and capacity of parliamentarians to support of the UNCAC and prevent corruption; and
  - b) engage its members in documenting and publicly reporting on important improvements in fighting and preventing corruption in countries;
- **other international parliamentary organizations** to similarly support the effective implementation and review of the UNCAC.