

Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption
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United Nations and its Member States have repeatedly identified ethics, integrity, transparency, and accountability as founding principles of sound public administration. In the words of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs itself, “Integrity, by requiring that public interest be paramount, provides the basis for transparency and accountability. Transparency without accountability becomes meaningless and makes a mockery of sound public administration. Accountability depends on transparency or having the necessary information. And transparency and accountability without integrity may not end up serving the public interest.”

The very purpose of the [Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption \(GOPAC\)](http://www.gopacnetwork.org) is to ensure that transparency, accountability, and integrity are implemented in deed, and not just uttered in word, across world’s governments and public institutions.

GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians, working together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law. Our members come from different cultures, speak different languages, profess different faiths, pursue different political philosophies, and are part of different political systems. Yet, they support one another in our shared efforts to impose effective democratic oversight on government, to sustain public transparency and accountability in public administration, and to foster a culture of integrity in public life.

In February 2013, GOPAC convened the largest-ever anti-corruption gathering of parliamentarians. They voted unanimously to mandate GOPAC to seek to establish “grand corruption” as a crime at international law, to enable international institutions and alliances to apprehend, prosecute, judge, and sentence the guilty. It is our single highest global priority.

It is our conviction that there are some forms of corruption so grave, whose effects on human life, human dignity, and human rights are so catastrophic, that they should shock the conscience of the international community and mobilise the will of nations to act across borders. Yet, far too often, the perpetrators of such grand corruption are able to use their illicit wealth and power to pervert the very laws and institutions that should call them to account. As a result, the worst offenders are the least likely to face domestic justice.

In such cases, when national authorities are unwilling or unable to act, we believe that the international community has a responsibility to step forward.

In the autumn of 2013, we released a [Discussion Paper](#) outlining options to implement international prosecution of grand corruption. We circulated the Paper widely amongst parliamentarians, international jurists, GOPAC observers, and GOPAC partners for their comments.

In November 2013, GOPAC convened an in-depth discussion at the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption, where parliamentarians approved the Paper and passed a bold [Declaration](#), resolving:

- to encourage states to enact and implement laws that place crimes of **grand corruption** under universal jurisdiction, and thus under the responsibility of their national law enforcement agencies, national prosecutors, and national courts;
- to encourage regional courts to accept and enforce jurisdiction to adjudicate crimes of **grand corruption** committed in their respective geographic regions of responsibility;
- to encourage states, the United Nations, and international institutions to deem crimes of **grand corruption** as crimes against the common community of humanity in violation of peremptory norms and international law;
- to encourage states, the United Nations, and international institutions to recognise crimes of **grand corruption** as crimes against humanity;
- to encourage states, the United Nations, and international institutions to develop additional international mechanisms to apprehend, prosecute, judge, and sentence those who have committed crimes of **grand corruption**.

In December 2014, GOPAC launched an online global campaign: [#PreventProsecuteParalyze](#). It calls on citizens, legislators, and governments to join hands in a shared effort to create international mechanisms to prosecute perpetrators of grand corruption.

We believe that combatting the worst forms of corruption is the calling of our time, not only in public administration but also across international affairs itself. But none of us can achieve this alone.

GOPAC is therefore calling on the United Nations to recognise the crimes of grand corruption as a crime against humanity and to support the creation of an international treaty to prosecute grand corruption.

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