



TO: UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration  
FROM: Akaash Maharaj, Chief Executive Officer  
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## Role of Parliamentarians in Combatting Corruption

The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) is pleased to submit this statement to the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UNCEPA), in support of agenda item 3(D) “Strengthening the confidence of citizens in the effectiveness, validity, and integrity of public administration through enhanced, targeted efforts to use good governance to prevent, expose, and deal with corruption.”

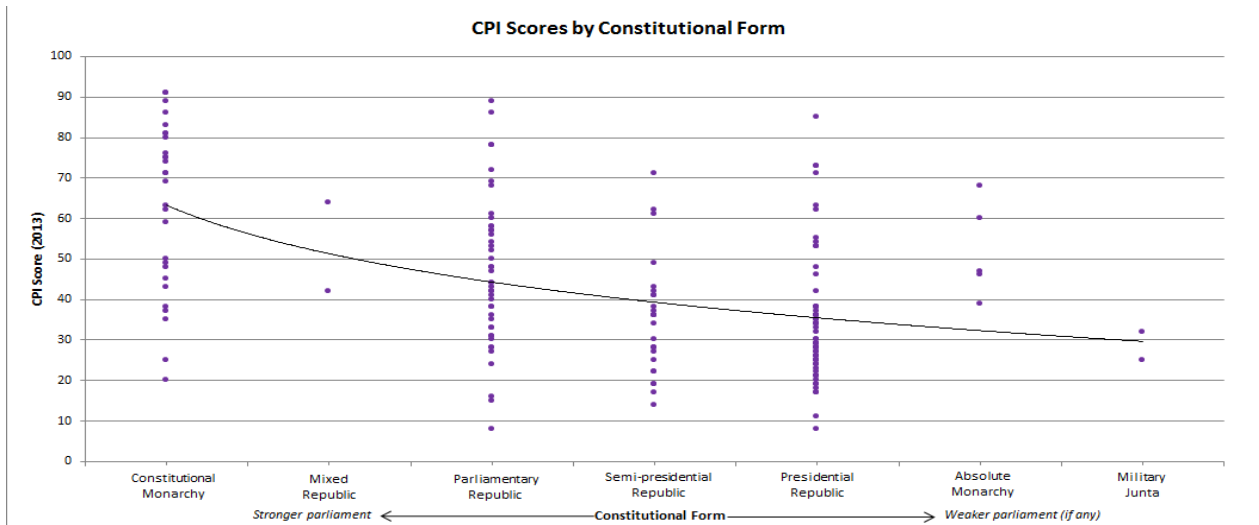
GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of legislators, working together to combat corruption, strengthen democracies, and uphold the rule of law. We have fifty-eight national chapters, six hemispheric chapters, and individual members in nearly every parliament of the world.

Our members come from different cultures, speak different languages, profess different faiths, pursue different political philosophies, and have been on opposite sides of history and warfare. But we are united by a common conviction: that corruption is one of the greatest threats to the stability of nations and to the rights of all mankind, and that it is the responsibility of legislators, as the representatives and servants of the people, to be their sword and their shield in the fight against corruption.

We strongly support the Sustainable Development Goals, and believe that Goal 16 in particular correctly identifies the imperative for the nations of the world to combat corruption, as a critical means of achieving social and economic development.

The UN Development Programme has estimated that the developing world loses €10 to corruption for every €1 it receives in official aid. Moreover, GOPAC estimates that corruption now kills more people across the world than war and famine *combined*. No matter what else the international community may do, we will simply not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, unless we are able to significantly contain and reduce corruption in public institutions.

GOPAC’s research has demonstrated conclusively that – across all regions, political systems, and cultures – strong parliaments are unambiguously correlated with reduced corruption, while weak parliaments are correlated with increased corruption.



By the very mature of their role, parliamentarians are the watchdogs of democracy, and it is tragic when citizens come accept their watchdogs muting their bark, muzzling their bite, or being neutered by the very powers they are meant to hold at bay. Ultimately, effective parliamentary oversight is the single most effective component in the state system to discourage, detect, and defeat corruption.

Our call to the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNCEPA is, therefore, simple to articulate, though often difficult to realise: to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, combatting corruption in public administration must be our first priority, and to succeed in that effort, we must cultivate and empower a vigilant, relentless, and fearless community of parliamentarians, to stand between our leaders and the levers of power.

GOPAC is honoured to join hands with the UNCEPA and other allied institutions to make this aspiration a reality.

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