

**Speech by Chair of Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption  
(GOPAC), HE. Fadli Zon,  
The 135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, October 2016**

***Human Rights Abuses as Precursors of Conflicts: Parliaments as early responders***

***Assalamualaikum Wr. Wb.***

***Mr Speakers, Vice Speakers and Members of Parliament,***

I am Siti Hediati Soeharto will take the pleasure to represent our chair, Mr. Fadli Zon to deliver GOPAC's perspectives on the theme of this august assembly.

***Distinguished members of Parliament,***

We have seen throughout the world where corruption came as a major cause of public protests, demanding for a reform. We have witnessed how corruption destabilises the security aspect of a country, sparking even more conflicts.

It ignites human rights abuses. This may come in different forms: from undermining the democratic system—the obstruction of political rights of citizens and their right of peaceful assembly and association, tyranny of access to take part in public affairs of services—to diverting development resources, making the poor poorer and destroying the enjoyment and fulfillment of their development rights be that in education, health or economic rights.

We are all counting the costs. To set the context, the developing and emerging economies lost US\$ 7.8 trillion in illicit financial flows from 2004 through 2013, with an increase at an average of 6.5 percent per year—almost twice as fast as global GDP;<sup>1</sup> Leaders entrusted to make and enforce laws in the name of the

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<sup>1</sup> *Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2004-2013*, [http://www.gfintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/IFF-Update\\_2015-Final-1.pdf](http://www.gfintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/IFF-Update_2015-Final-1.pdf)

people that misuse this authority to increase their power, status and wealth, are still untouchable and unpunished.<sup>2</sup>

We cannot let the corrupt go unpunished while those who are innocent share the burden.

***Fellow Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

The pivotal role of parliamentarians as elected officials is to defend democracy. Yet, true democracy cannot exist where corruption thrives.

The inability and unwillingness to regulate public corruption is a violation to the International Bill of Human Rights. However, the root to tackle corruption rests in the political will.

Parliaments that already put in place the ratification of UNCAC or any international and regional anti-corruption binding instruments, and adopt all necessary legislative frameworks to detect, prevent and deter corruption have contributed to the reduction of potential tensions and human rights abuses which could lead to conflict.

We also recognize the importance of dealing with corruption in development assistance. Tackling corruption in aid programmes is important to maximise the benefit of such programs and to protect the human rights of beneficiaries. This is strongly relevant in particular when it comes to the global discussion of the newly-declared Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

GOPAC in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) is developing a Parliamentary Handbook on SDGs as a parliamentary guidance to successfully implement the SDGs including

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<sup>2</sup> <http://gopacnetwork.org/preventprosecuteparalyze/>

through the monitoring of any development assistance. The handbook emphasizes our work of countering the possible corruption in the implementation of SDGs by exploring any parliamentary initiatives that can be performed.

We encourage all parliamentarians to make use of this Parliamentary Handbook upon its publication.

As a final message, I call upon all the esteemed members of the IPU to destroy corruption. Do not let it kills you!

***Thank You.***

***Wassalamualaikum, Wr, Wb.***