

**Speech by Chair of Global Organization of Parliamentarians  
Against Corruption (GOPAC), HE. Fadli Zon,  
The 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, October 2017**

***Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith  
and inter-ethnic dialogue***

***Assalamualaikum Wr. Wb.***

***Peace be upon us all,***

***Mr President,***

***Excellencies Speakers, Vice Speakers and Members of  
Parliaments,***

On behalf of the Chair of Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption HE. Fadli Zon, I wish to extend our great appreciation to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (the State Duma and the Council of Federation) for the successful organization of the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.

As GOPAC main work is to promote the robust development of an anti-corruption regime through parliamentary means, we are of the view that in such work, a strong democracy should be in place. A democracy where all people, irrespective of their race, sex, gender, groups, religions, expression and/or opinions as well as political affiliations, are on the same footing. This by no means, shall include the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms with no exception. In order to achieve this ideal, a bridge of understanding among different groups of ethnics, faiths, and religions, should be built.

***Distinguished Delegates,***

The promotion of culture, religious values and tenets as well as norms of anti-corruption, good governance and all aspects relevant to the establishment of a strong and robust anti-corruption regime may serve as

one of the fundamental basis for dialogue among people of different faiths, religions, cultures, and ethnics. Anti-corruption issues can strengthen this bridge of understanding.

A country with strong recognition to pluralism will present more fair, balance, aspirational, transparent and just governance of state. In a country with low levels of corruption, the increase of corruption will have less effect on peace. However, once a certain threshold is reached, a small increase in corruption can result in a large decrease of peace, according to the Institute for Economic and Peace.<sup>1</sup>

***Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I wish to highlight what has been mentioned by many international community actors and included in the UN Agenda 2030 Declaration: there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. This notion implies one thing: that we are working towards SDGs in particular Goal 16.

We want our societies to be inclusive, to be available for all, no matter who they are and where they come from. We want our people, whoever they may be, can walk safely around the neighbourhood without fear of discrimination, free from any hateful expressions or opinions due to their origins, status, religions, or ethnicities. Most of all, we need our parliamentarians to stand by our side, to defend our aspirations and to control those in power so that nothing can be corrupted nor hidden.

We need our parliamentarians to be strong and fully aware to the global pledge of SDGs. It is within such awareness that we are championing the mainstreaming of SDGs into the work of parliaments and members of

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<sup>1</sup> <http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Peace-and-Corruption.pdf>

parliaments by developing a Parliamentary Handbook on the SDGs, a joint work with the Islamic Development Bank, the UNDP and GOPAC.

The handbook sought to provide good practices and various parliamentary initiatives from all over the world which may be useful for lessons learned in strengthening parliamentary roles in the implementation of SDGs. I wish to invite all parliaments and parliamentarians to make use this handbook for the benefit of our people.

As a conclusion, GOPAC highlights the notion of promoting cultural pluralism and peace by advancing anti-corruption discussions as the subject of dialogue of inter-faiths and inter-ethnics dialogue as well as by generating more faiths, religious or ethnics leaders that can lead by example in combatting corruption. Through such promotion, we are granting ourselves efforts to further prevent the negative impact of corruption.

***Thank You.***

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