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GOPAC Statement
146th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings
11-15 Maret 2023, Manama, Bahrain

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Promoting Peaceful Coexistence and Inclusive Societies: Fighting Intolerance

***Excellencies,
Delegates,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Assalamualaikum Wr., Wb.

Peace be upon us all,

I am grateful for the opportunity to be here at the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Manama, Bahrain.

I feel empowered since just a few days ago, members of our organization – the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption – gathered to have a dialogue on the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), an opportunity for us to reassess the progress of the convention and how parliamentarians can help to implement its provisions effectively.

One of our particular dialogue topics, entitled "Parliament and People: Addressing the emergencies," was strongly related to the IPU Assembly theme today: peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies.

GOPAC's Parliamentary Dialogue highlighted how we as parliamentarians and parliament must promote measures towards parliamentary openness and transparency in order for us to have inclusive, participatory, and representative parliament. **A parliament that is for all.**

Corruption fuels conflicts. Moreover, it feeds divisions, political polarity, and even xenophobia.



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These are evident when we witness favoritism in giving a rule break to some groups while a hard one to others; when we create a discriminatory law, accidentally or deliberately, to our citizens; when some groups benefit from a corrupt status quo, while others, mainly the vulnerable, feel the pain of inefficient public service.

Distinguished Delegates,

GOPAC calls for parliament, as the representative body of all citizens, to work towards enhancing its Openness and Transparency, just as UNCAC article 13 on Participation of Society mandated us to do so.

In a larger context, it is high time for us, as parliament and parliamentarians, to review and assess the state of participation of our society in every part of the public sector governance process. By having equal access and participation for all citizens in every public decision and all public services, with no exception, we have already one step closer to tackling the divisive community we have today.

One of the means to assess such a state would be to ensure the provision's implementation of UNCAC in general and its article 13 implementations in particular. Moreover, there needs to be collectively agreed norms and guidance to ensure that the participation of society is meaningful.

Within that framework, GOPAC calls parliament and parliamentarians to take part and strengthen their involvement at the Conference of the State Parties to UNCAC. As an organization with members from different backgrounds, practice different political ideology, and interact at all levels of society, GOPAC will continue to deeply engage at the CoSP UNCAC so as to ensure that the article 13 of participation of society will be critical to promote an inclusive society.

Thank You

Wassalamualaikum Wr., Wb.