

Remarks by GOPAC Chair, H.E. Dr. Fadli Zon

***“Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees:
the need for evidence – based policy solutions.”***

***Mr Chairman, Speakers, Vice Speakers and Members of
Parliament,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.***

It is my great pleasure to address you today at this 138th IPU General Assembly as a parliamentarian who ~~represent join forces in~~ a network of anti-corruption at the global level: The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC). Our membership extends across the world to include current and former legislators from 106 countries, women and men who are dedicated to working together to combat corruption and promote good governance.

Members of Parliaments,

I would like to begin by applauding the IPU for highlighting, once again, the issue of migration as one of the pressing issues of this century. It is a high time for us to take actions in providing parliamentary perspectives to a new global cooperation framework which will set a new course for the development of ~~the a~~ new migration regime.

Corruption is linked to migration in many ways. ~~It~~ **Corruption also** has many faces ~~from such as~~ bribery, influence peddling, embezzlement, misuse of public funds, nepotism, ~~to name a few, and others~~. To those who are unfortunate, which shape the large proportion of today’s migrants, corruption is a necessary evil. **I will explain why.**

A study at the Migration Policy Institute reveals that corruption facilitates illegal migration ~~which often involves such as~~ border bribery ~~or and~~ document forgery ~~through by paying~~ bribe. ~~It Bribery~~ also ~~enables sometimes afforded migrants/asylum seekers humanitarian~~ protection ~~and facilitates their journey~~ when ~~those who migrate~~ they have to turn to human smugglers, due to certain restriction from countries of recipient ~~for certain migrants/asylum seekers~~. These smugglers are heavily dependent to corrupt officials.

In terms of remittances, corruption also impedes the benefit of migration. Migrants who send ~~ing~~ their money to their homeland are being abused by officials or private entities by imposing “un-explained fee” for service delivery of remittances. It is far too often we see that during their return, migrants bear certain amount of fee for “administrative reason” which lessening their income.

Corruption breeds almost in every area of migration. What makes it more ironic is that corruption even may exists in the delivery of aid. There have been reports on how some groups/non-governmental organizations or even governmental institutions taking the advantage from the international contributions and donations by creating proposals where none of them are being implemented in correct manner.¹

Mr. President, Distinguished Members of IPU,

The world ~~has seen the~~ currently is witnessing unprecedented flows of human migration. This kind of situation may also be fueled by corruption. The Transparency International research shows that corruption often a chief contributor to the overall violence and instability forcing people to run for their physical and psychological safety. Widespread corruption undermines the legitimacy and stability of a government especially if it fails to meet the needs of its people.

¹ Read more <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/politics/2015/03/lebanon-corruption-syrian-refugees-aid.html#> retrieved by 19 October 2015.

Many current conflicts around the world which resulting a massive flux of human forced migration are a testament where the breeding ground of such situation derives from public dissatisfaction for corrupt governmental services.

Fellow Parliamentarians,

In terms of forced migration, often we see that it breeds from conflict or post-war situation in countries of origin. The impact is more disastrous. In the case of Rohingya for example, the migration influx from Myanmar to Bangladesh are often a case of abuse from the authority, either violence as well as economic abuse. During my visit to Cox Bazaar, Bangladesh, recently, I have seen that such massive abuse has lead to humanitarian tragedy of our time.

We need to take actions. Yet, it requires an international cooperation. As the global stakeholders of a world without corruption, GOPAC welcomes the publication of the zero draft plus of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regulated Migration. The zero draft has also included the anti-corruption principles in terms of the promotion of transparency mechanisms, the development of accountability, the commitment to have faster, safer, and cheaper remittances, as well as the pledge to develop incorrupt institutions relevant to migrations.

Mr. President, Delegates of the IPU,

We believe that to have a safe, orderly, and regulated migration, we need to promote sustainable development policies which are linked to the global pledge of our time: the SDGs. We need to recognize that migration should be address in multi-dimensional aspects of developments. In this context, we are of the view that parliament can contribute themselves through their constitutional role in the promotion of the SDGs.

A key part in it, is actions to oversee policies and programs of SDGs. As GOPAC recognizes SDGs as global goals towards human prosperity in a corrupt-free environment, we have, in a joint project with the Islamic Development Bank and the UNDP, developed a Parliamentary Handbook on SDGs. The handbook will provide insights for you, as parliamentarians, on ways we can do to promote SDGs. I encourage you to use the handbook and develop national actions towards the SDGs.

We need more actions to create better migration regime. After all, we are a also a migrant to our world.

Thank You.

Wassalamualaikum Wr.Wb.