

News Release

South East Asia Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC)

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SEAPAC is one of the regional chapters of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), the only international network of parliamentarians focused solely on combating corruption. SEAPAC aims to strengthen the network of parliamentarians belonging to GOPAC from Southeast Asia, to organize country chapters, to hold group activities and to make SEAPAC as the regional authority in the fight against corruption.

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SEAPAC President's Message during the 2021 UN-IPU Parliamentary Hearing "Key Anti-Corruption Measures: Assets Disclosure and Beneficial Ownership, Whistle-Blowers, And Financing of Political Parties/Elections"

Jakarta, Indonesia – On Thursday, 18 February 2021, the President of SEAPAC (South East Asia Parliamentarians against Corruption), Dr. Fadli Zon, participated as a panelist in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) – United Nations (UN) Annual Parliamentary Hearing forum. The forum is an annual meeting between the UN and parliaments around the world. This year, the forum raised the main theme of "Fighting corruption to restore trust in government and improve development aspects". During the hearing, Dr. Fadli Zon affirmed that fighting corruption must be done in a more comprehensive aspect, starting from preventive until enforcement of the law, and also raising the collective spirit to implement the elements of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Corruption has become a serious threat to sustainable development. This threat has long penetrated the government and the state, both of the executive and legislative branches, and at the national, regional, and global levels.

Dr. Zon emphasizes that collaboration among parliaments plays important role in combating corruption. Traditional approaches such as establishing and enacting the law, will not be sufficient enough to build effective mechanisms in curbing corrupt practices. Thus, although countries have successfully produced hundreds of regulations every year, their Corruption Perception Index (CPI) has not significantly increased.

Besides establishing strong laws enforcement system, a joint framework is needed to delve into the UNCAC elements and translate them into legislations, policies, and oversight activities. Dr. Zon encourage parliamentarians to consider various aspects, both socio-political, to the legal frameworks in translating UNCAC elements to become parliamentary intervention.

The implementation of UNCAC differs from each country in the South East Asia region. Some countries included asset disclosure as a product of legislation, while others only translate it as Codes of Ethics or a parliamentary regulation, it is also the case with beneficial ownership.



Under the leadership of Dr. Zon, SEAPAC is currently developing a program to map the implementation and arrangements of UNCAC to identifying the strengths, challenges, and suitable methods to implement it.

SEAPAC also encourages inter-parliamentary cooperation in eradicating corruption on one common platform. And in this context, SEAPAC welcomes every member of parliaments, former members of parliaments, and international organizations to collaborate.

In addition, to support the anti-corruption global movement, strong regulation is needed to protect whistle-blowers. As of now, most countries have whistle-blower regulations, but lack protection for the whistle-blowers. Parliaments need to study and develop regulation in this matter so that dismissal in a workplace due to corruption reports can be avoidable.

The two-day agenda of the UN-IPU Parliamentary Hearing presented several high-profile speakers including Chair GOPAC, Mr. Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud; co-facilitator of the UNGASS Declaration negotiations, Mr. Eric Anderson Machado (Peru Permanent Representative to UN Office in Vienna), and Executive Director of UNODC, Ghada Fathi Waly.

This hearing is a part of IPU's effort to build a parliamentary dimension to this year's UN-focused issue on corruption, entitled the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) against Corruption. As a network of parliamentarians with consultative status at the UN ECOSOC, GOPAC - SEAPAC has contributed written contributions to UNGASS.

SEAPAC Secretariat

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