



**SEAPAC Chair, Dr. Fadli Zon,  
Opening Remarks  
SEAPAC Webinar**

**UNGASS against Corruption 2021: What Roles are there for parliamentarians?**

***Honorable Vice Chairs and Distinguished Members of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation***

***Honorable Members of Parliament from SEAPAC member countries***

***Mr. Francesco Checchi, UNODC Regional Advisor on Anti-Corruption***

***Ms. Hajjah Suhana Binti Haji Sudin, Director of Brunei Darussalam Anti-Corruption Bureau, ASEAN-PAC Representative***

***Mr. Mochamad Hadiyana, Deputy for Information and Data, Indonesia Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK)***

***Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

***Assalamualaikum Warrahmatullah Wabarakatuh,  
Peace be upon us all,***

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to this SEAPAC Information Webinar entitled “*The UNGASS against Corruption 2021: What Roles are there for parliamentarians?*” My apology to all SEAPAC Members for we cannot have any meeting or program implemented last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and national restriction situation.

This year is no different I supposed... There is still a lot of uncertainty on what might happen regarding the pandemic, yet... we cannot stand for another excuse. Our network should deliver... as I believe that the success in the fight against corruption also depends on the way we work and collaborate in the region.

SEAPAC is a platform for us, parliamentarians, to work together, collaborate, and advocate means to combat corruption and promote good governance at the regional

level. As an international parliamentarian-network, we have the opportunity to bring together our best practices, experiences, and voices of our people and bring about a change in the way we combat corruption.

***Excellencies,  
Honorable,  
Distinguished Guests,***

SEAPAC believes that parliamentarians have the key roles to combat corruption through their constitutional parliamentary mandates. These roles are becoming of greater significance lately due to the COVID-19 pandemic responses.

I know that there are challenges in the exercise of our parliamentary duties during the emergency, but to hold the government to account, to legislate needed legal framework with adequate protection to prevent the misuse of public money and corruption... and... to safe, defend, and ensure that the public money delivered to those who are needed the most, are must-do jobs for a parliamentarian.

***Excellencies,  
Honorable,  
Distinguished Guests,***

Today's webinar is one of many means of networking that SEAPAC can exercise during this hard time. This year's activity will be started by a topical Information Webinar about an international event: the UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption (UNGASS).

As agreed by the UN GA through a resolution 73/191, the UN will convene, in the first half of 2021, a General Assembly Special Session against Corruption. It will discuss challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.

I believe UNGASS provides a stronger political impetus for the global anti-corruption movement. It is critical as we for this past year have been dealing with massive delivery of public money and programs specifically designed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and recover from the resulting impact of such crisis.

But most of the time, many UN international agendas reserved only to the executives. While parliamentarians, as people who receive mandates and voices of the people are left behind.

SEAPAC believes that we should not leave anyone behind. Under GOPAC, we do have already contributed to the discussion for UNGASS. But we know that the more parliamentarians join the discussion... the more we can achieve. The more they know much about the UNGASS, the best we can prepare for actions beyond UNGASS.

***Excellencies,  
Honorable,  
Distinguished Guests,***

This Information Webinar is open for all parliaments and parliamentarians within the southeast Asia region. It is not exclusive only for GOPAC – SEAPAC Members, with the hope that after this webinar, you will have more insight on the agenda and set actions to follow up or to prepare priorities for the UNGASS.

I know that we still have much to do, but this is a small step for a greater one. I hope that the Webinar will be fruitful and deliberative. For those who have not yet a member, I encourage you, my fellow parliamentarians, to join GOPAC – SEAPAC membership.

Let us collaborate for a better region free from corruption.

Join us. Be our ally!

***Thank You.  
Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.***