



## Engaging Citizens

*Early Considerations for Global Task Force on Participation of Society (GTF-PoS)*

**Issue:** Although this GTF was formally established June 2010 at the Ottawa GOPAC Executive Committee meeting, other priorities of the Task Force Leader, Hon. Musikari Kombo of Kenya, as well as the Global Secretariat did not allow it to proceed. This session will provide an opportunity for participants to share their experiences in engaging society to prevent corruption with a view of having the discussion contribute to GTF PoS planning in the future.

### Considerations:

- There is a link to the UNCAC: Article 13 and GOPAC's initial policy position recognize the essential role of parliamentarians in increasing public demand for corruption prevention.
- The main mechanisms for parliamentarians to help increase public demand are: a) elections and **political parties**; b) the **media**; and c) **civil society organizations**.
- The impact and effectiveness of each of these mechanisms on the actions of the executive branch and the civil society individuals and organizations that participate in corruption can be **different in different regions of the world**.
- There are a number of **well accepted practices** that support the participation of society in the fight against corruption and effective oversight of government, including **Access to Information legislation** and administrative practices, and Parliamentary committee practices – open meetings, televised hearings, and inviting witnesses.
- There also are a number of **creative anti-corruption initiatives** such as the experience in Kenya with constituency development funds, where citizens have become directly involved in combating corruption or exercising oversight; and the “zero rupee note”.

### Draft resolutions: GOPAC should

- review and make available successful existing and creative anti-corruption practices from various regions of the world involving the participation of society, including assessing related information from the country assessments of the Monitoring Report; and
- encourage each regional Chapter to develop an approach to engagement of society and outline how parliamentarians and parliaments can help prevent corruption.