

## **Plan of Action on Combating Corruption**

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

**RECALLING** paragraph 9 of the APA Tehran Declaration concerning "the adoption of a decision to set up a working group in the Islamic Republic of Iran to study and draw up a plan of action on, *inter alia*, "taking measures to combat corruption through education, information and promotion of good governance;"

**RECOGNIZING** that corruption is a predicament that seriously undermines the rule of law, curbs economic growth, and damages public trust and human rights, thus further widens the gap between the poor and the rich;

**BEING AWARE** of the fact that corruption is not merely a national problem thus combating it would require not only national resolve but also a solid cooperation at regional and international levels;

**UNDERLINING** the need for mutual assistance, exchange of information, and sharing experiences and best practices on combating corruption among Member Parliaments of the APA;

**REALIZING** the significant role that parliaments should play in enhancing integrity of the administration of governance and in reducing and eventually eliminating corruption through enactment of appropriate legislations, effective oversight, representation and accountability, and financial control in a transparent manner;

**URGING** the governments of Member Parliaments to ensure the necessary cooperation with their respective parliaments and fulfill their commitments in fighting corruption;

**CALLING UPON** all Asian states to further enforce the enacted laws on combating corruption and to promote good governance and transparency in their activities,

**Adopt** the following "Plan of Action for Combating Corruption" and establish a consultative sub-committee under the APA social and economic Committee to supervise its implementation and prepare an annual report of the progress made in this respect.

## **The APA Plan of Action for Combating Corruption**

### ***Legislative Actions***

1. Encourage the adoption of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and development of necessary mechanisms for monitoring its effective implementation by members of APA;
2. Support the legislation of comprehensive and effective laws compatible with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and harmonization of existing laws on combating corruption;
3. Advance the legislation of laws for promoting transparency and accountability at all levels covering public and private sectors;
4. Further support the legislation of necessary laws for enhancing the integrity of Legislature, Executive and Judiciary powers, including the adoption of a set of criteria and condition for the formation, structures, processes and functioning of these powers by APA Member parliaments;
5. Reinforce the legislation of the necessary laws to criminalize all kinds of bribery, embezzlement, money-laundering, and misappropriation or diversion of public funds and properties;
6. Enhance the legislation of necessary laws to support and protect those who expose corruption or bear witness in this regard to encourage the culture of reporting corruption;
7. Exchange information and share experiences among Member Parliaments related to the effective legislation on combating corruption;

### ***Parliamentary Oversight***

1. Increase the capacity and effectiveness of the parliaments in Asian States as an oversight body to combat corruption;
2. Create an oversight mechanism to assure compatibility of the legislations and effective implementation of anti-corruption laws in all Member parliaments with the provisions of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;
3. Make sure that those entrusted to implement anti-corruption laws have the integrity and capacity required to fulfill their obligations;
4. Ensure the transparency of fundraising by political parties and groups for their election campaigns;

5. Expand cooperation and coordination among APA Member parliaments and other supervisory bodies dealing with combating corruption;

***Dissemination of Information,  
Accountability and Transparency***

1. Disseminate information and knowledge regarding anti-corruption activities among APA Member parliaments;
2. Exchange information and experience with Member Parliaments concerning the best practices in combating various types of corruption;
3. Promote transparency on the processes of legislation, parliamentary oversight, representation and accountability, and financial controls;
4. Encourage APA Member parliaments to meticulously consider and fill out the "sample self-review worksheet," attached to this Plan of Action to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices.
5. Create necessary grounds for the institutions of civil society including the media, trade unions and NGOs to promote and practice anti-corruption activities;
6. Release public reports on the results of anti-corruption activities;
7. Prepare the suitable grounds for imparting necessary information and education to the public in order to enhance their awareness and promote people's participation in campaign against corruption;
8. Ensure the freedom of expression, particularly the freedom of the press, in order to enhance dissemination of information and sharing best practices on combating the corruption;
9. Promote effective cooperation among Member Parliaments in research fields relevant to fighting corruption.

***Financial Control***

1. Ensure that the budget is spent within the framework of plans approved by parliaments;
2. Establish parliamentary mechanisms for enforcing public accountability and financial control of the manners in which governments earn income and spend budget;
3. Enhance the exchange of information and experience related to effective financial control among Member parliaments in order to ensure effective campaign against corruption.