

VII MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES

Ulaanbaatar, 27-29 April 2013

PARLIAMENTARY FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY RESOLUTION

We, the participants of the **Parliamentary Forum for Democracy, held in preparation to the VII Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies** to be held in Ulaanbaatar on 29 April 2013 have considered the fight against corruption as an essential effort to strengthen democracy and democratic institution.

We recognize the efforts made by Mongolia to promote democracy, human rights, and tackle corruption.

We welcome the progress made in combating corruption in several member countries in recent years, including Georgia and Moldova.

We express appreciation and note the importance and timeliness of focusing our discussions on the issue of corruption.

We believe that citizens of democracies have high expectations from its leaders and governments, especially in fighting corruption.

We take note that:

- 1) Corruption is a complex, multi-layered problem, that results from weaknesses and deficiencies in laws, regulations, monitoring enforcement, deterrence, institutions and co-ordination;
- 2) Corruption weakens the capacity of the state to act on behalf of all its citizens due to a loss in revenue and the creation of a distorted economy;
- 3) Corruption corrodes public confidence in state institutions, its elected representatives and officials of the state;
- 4) Corruption is the antithesis of democracy and democratic values, based on a belief in the equality of opportunity for all.

We call upon the governments of the Community of Democracies to address corruption through:

- Steadfast political will; the “tone from the top”;
- Coordinated and integrated work in all sectors of society;
- Developing legislation;
- Oversight and monitoring; and
- Representation.

Taking note that these traditional functions are insufficient to meet the new realities of today, ***the following clear approaches*** have been identified.

The Parliamentary Forum for Democracy calls upon its governments to support:

1. **Anti-corruption paradigm shift:** the current approach of parliaments can be called the mandate approach. This should shift to a mission approach in which more emphasis is placed on the outcomes and results of anti-corruption efforts rather than focusing primarily on the laws and institutions that address anti-corruption by developing strategies to reduce corruption. This will require strong coordination between parliaments and ministries.
2. **Coalition strengthening:** to address corruption at the international level, several networks and organizations have developed working relationships. Within parliaments, local chapters of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) have been established. GOPAC links parliamentarians in a way that allows them to share best practices. Governments may benefit from the cooperation with the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) through capacity-building of parliamentarians and developing more effective ways to combat corruption. The Transparency International's research techniques and methodologies to quantify corruption would also be useful. The Parliamentary Forum for Democracy needs to develop stronger relations with such organizations and networks with the aim of increasing knowledge sharing and capacity-building. Increased ties will allow the Parliamentary Forum to support parliaments that are looking to strengthen their own anti-corruption efforts through the identification of lessons learned and the best practices.
3. **Peer review:** coalition-building and strengthening will bring a range of players to support anti-corruption initiatives. However, parliamentarians should be encouraged and supported to develop through peer-to-peer review their own standards for measuring and monitoring anti-corruption efforts in other states. Peer-to-peer efforts allows for informal comment and constructive advice on how to improve anti-corruption efforts.
4. **Access to information:** free and public access to information is critical to support efforts to combat corruption. Access to information allows citizens to monitor all aspects of government income and expenditure, making it more difficult for funds to be misappropriated without detection. The Parliamentary Forum for Democracy calls upon its governments to ensure legislation enabling its citizens unobstructed access to information.
5. **End secrecy clauses:** misappropriation of funds can be protected by secrecy clauses in government-private sector contracts. Such secrecy clauses should be forbidden as they block freedom and transparency, and citizen monitoring, in government dealings.

We express gratitude to the State Great Hural of Mongolia for the generous hospitality and for the successful hosting of the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy.