

**БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
ПАРЛАМЕНТАРНА СКУПШТИНА
БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ**



**BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
PARLAMENTARNA SKUPŠTINA
BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE**

**ДОМ НАРОДА
ПРЕДСТАВНИЧКИ ДОМ**

**DOM NARODA
PREDSTAVNIČKI DOM / ZASTUPNIČKI DOM**

Огранак Глобалне организације
парламентараца за борбу против корупције
(ГОПАК)

Ogranak Globalne organizacije
parlamentaraca za borbu protiv korupcije
(GOPAC)

Number: 05/5-50-14-104-3/17

Sarajevo, 18 April 2017

**WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CHAPTER OF THE GLOBAL
ORGANISATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST
CORRUPTION IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA**

Sarajevo, April 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>	
1. Reasons and purpose behind the formation of GOPAC's Chapter in PA BiH.....	3
2. Goals of GOPAC's Chapter in PA BiH.....	3
3. Main tasks and activities of GOPAC's Chapter in PA BiH.....	4
II. <u>ACTIVITY PLAN OF GOPAC'S CHAPTER FOR THE PERIOD 2017–2018</u>	
❖ GOAL 1 – TO FORM AN ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND TO BEGIN REGULAR ACTIVITIES	6
1.1 Work in plenary meetings and promotion of GOPAC and its objectives through activities of the members of GOPAC’s Chapter in PA BiH.....	6
1.2 Securing funds for the implementation of activities	7
1.3 Cooperation with parliamentarians of the countries of Europe and Central Asia.....	
1.4 Establishment of a regional chapter of GOPAC.....	7
1.5 Cooperation with the GOPAC Secretariat and global chapters for the purpose of exchanging experiences and improving operations.....	8
❖ GOAL 2 – TO BUILD CAPACITIES OF BiH PARLIAMENTARIANS.....	9
2.1. Organisation and implementation of workshops.....	9
2.2. Provision of international expertise to support capacity building and development of GOPAC's Chapter in PA BiH.....	9
❖ GOAL 3 – TO PRESENT RESULTS, COMMUNICATE WITH CITIZENS AND RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF SUPPRESSION OF CORRUPTION	10
3.1. Securing transparency of work and informing the public about activities of GOPAC's Chapter in PABiH.....	10
3.1. Promotion of anti-corruption legislation	11
3.2. Cooperation with civil society organisations, academic community and the media	11
3.3. Cooperation with independent institutions of the state and judicial authorities.....	11
❖ GOAL 4 – ACTIVITIES OF GOPAC'S CHAPTER IN PA BiH DOMESTICALLY, REGIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY	13
4.1. Participation in the GOPAC Global Conference	13
4.2. Participation in the GOPAC regional meetings.....	13

I. INTRODUCTION

1. REASONS AND PURPOSE BEHIND THE FORMATION OF GOPAC'S CHAPTER IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF BiH

The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) is a registered non-profit organization which brings together parliamentarians and others in a country primarily to combat corruption.

The GOPAC parliamentary chapters in the Member States are created primarily to increase effectiveness of the implementation of changes and to achieve concrete results in combating corruption. The national chapters have developed capacities to focus on specific areas as well as on the key national problems in fighting corruption.

The GOPAC was founded in 2002 as a result of a Global Conference in Ottawa (Canada) which brought together 170 parliamentarians and 400 observers dedicated to the fight against corruption and creation of accountable governance. The GOPAC has been providing support to its members ever since, primarily to such issues as promotion and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), prevention of money laundering, oversight over national governments and public spending and the establishment of ethical rules of conduct for parliamentarians and their engagement in the overall fight against corruption.

Starting from GOPAC's established priorities and objectives, this paper sets out a work programme for the Chapter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina (GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH) for the period 2017 – 2018. The Programme aims at facilitating fully an effective fight against corruption and the achievement of concrete results, taking into consideration the pre-accession phase of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a potential member of the European Union.

The first part of this programme defines the goals of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH and its main tasks and activities.

2. GOALS OF GOPAC'S CHAPTER IN PA BiH

In accordance with Article 6 of the Charter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption in the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, the main objectives of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH are to prevent and to combat corruption, and to promote the principles of transparency and accountability in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the purpose of ensuring broad integrity standards and in particular:

- a) implementing the objectives of the Global Organization related to the establishment of standards of conduct with a view to promoting transparency, accountability and good governance,
- b) promoting the rule of law and accountability of government institutions in BiH,

- c) developing capacities of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a view to strengthening its scrutiny role and democratic oversight over institutions of the executive branch of government at the level of BiH,
- d) facilitating the exchange of information, knowledge, best practices and experiences among the members of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH related to anti-corruption measures,
- e) encouraging parliamentarians of both Houses of the PA BiH to enact legislation that promotes transparency, accountability and effective governance,
- f) promoting measures aimed at dealing effectively with corruption and raising awareness on the issue of corruption at all levels of society,
- g) educating parliamentarians of the PA BiH on the forms, nature and ways of preventing and combating corruption,
- h) working for the improvement of the capacities of the institutions of BiH to deal effectively with corruption,
- i) cooperating with national and regional bodies in the mobilisation of resources for anti-corruption programmes, including:
 - supporting the activities of other GOPAC's national chapters in the world,
 - information sharing through the use of websites, e-mail and other services,
 - participating in anti-corruption seminars and workshops,
 - liaising with, and working in cooperation with, international organisations, parliaments in other countries, institutions of the executive branch of government, judicial institutions, civil society and other organisations on all matters aimed at improving governance, transparency and accountability,
 - conducting research, exchanging and disseminating information on best practices and experiences, and
 - promoting the engagement of the members GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH and thereby furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Global Organization, and
- j) carrying out all other activities conducive to supporting and promoting the achievement of the GOPAC objectives.

3. MAIN TASKS AND ACTIVITIES OF GOPAC'S CHAPTER IN PA BiH

All members of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH are especially responsible for:

- promoting the laws which strengthen integrity of institutions of society, support transparency and accountability and combat corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- building the commitment and capacity of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH to exercise its duties with particular relation to public finances,
- exchanging information, lessons learned and best models and practices,
- initiating and implementing projects aimed at reducing corruption and promoting good governance,

- cooperating with international financial institutions and civil society organisations to achieve shared objectives,
- recognising and supporting the importance of the rule of law in the development of an open, free and productive society.

In this regard, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH undertakes a set of activities which include:

1. initiation of laws relating to prevention of and fight against corruption in the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH,
2. an analysis of the existing legislation and monitoring of enforcement of anti-corruption laws in BiH,
3. establishment of networks to support anti-corruption activities and cooperation with relevant institutions,
4. building capacity of parliamentarians for fighting corruption through support provided through professional anti-corruption training, knowledge and skills,
5. cooperation with key institutions on improvement of conditions for combating corruption in BiH, civil society institutions/non-governmental sector, the academic community and the media,
6. cooperation with GOPAC's national chapters in the countries of the region, and undertaking activities with a view to establishing a regional chapter of the GOPAC, and
7. reporting to the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH on the activities of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH and sharing anti-corruption results with the public.

II. ACTIVITY PLAN OF GOPAC'S CHAPTER IN PA BiH FOR THE PERIOD 2017 - 2018

❖ GOAL 1 – TO FORM AN ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND TO BEGIN REGULAR ACTIVITIES

GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH was formed at the founding meeting held on December 9, 2016 at the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, which was organised by UNDP BiH. The members of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH from both Houses of the PA BiH signed the Charter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption at the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, whereby our country became the 60th country to sign the Charter and join this global organisation.

With a view to developing an adequate work programme and activity plan for the next period, following the founding meeting, the members of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH visited the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia where they discussed with the GOPAC Serbia members their experiences in forming the chapter and the implementation of activities from their work programme over the past three and a half years of existence of GOPAC's national chapter in Serbia.

Thereafter, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH selected its Executive Committee comprising the chairman of the Chapter and first and second deputy, who come from the three constituent peoples in BiH and who will manage the operations of the Chapter under Articles 12 and 13 of the Charter in the next period.

1.1 Work in plenary meetings and promotion of GOPAC and its objectives through activities of the members of GOPAC's Chapter in PA BiH

The members of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will actively promote GOPAC and its objectives through their activities at the PA BiH, especially those related to the legislative procedures and identification of the bills which can cause corruption, in order to demonstrate, through their personal non-partisan efforts, their commitment and to contribute to the fight against corruption.

The members of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH express their commitment to the Chapter's dealing with the bills from the perspective of corruption risks and eradicating corruption risks and threats from the bills proposed for passage. In this regard, the members of the Chapter acknowledge public hearing and public consultations as extremely useful parliamentary mechanisms which make it possible to engage all stakeholders in a discussion on all aspects of a problem or bill with a view to finding the best solution and forestalling anticipated negative effects. The members of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will propose public hearings within their regular activities within their respective permanent committees of both Houses of the PA BiH.

1.2 Securing funds for the implementation of activities and signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation

The establishment of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH was supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in BiH through its project “Strengthening Parliamentary Capacities and Key Institutions Mandated with Fighting Corruption in BiH”, funded by the Norwegian Embassy to BiH.

Since the Project ended on 31 December 2016, it is necessary to secure new financial and professional support for the next period in order for GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH to be able to provide an adequate response to all tasks set out in this work programme.

In this regard, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will talk to UNDP and all other interested international organisations, foundations, institutions and civil society organisations which can provide logistical support to operations of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH through their specialised projects and programmes, in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter.

The chairman of the Executive Committee of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will sign, on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, a Memorandum of Cooperation with the organisations which will support, through their respective projects and programmes, the operations of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH focused on fighting corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1.3 Cooperation with parliamentarians of the countries of Europe and Central Asia

The international conference entitled “Transparency and Accountability for Effective Oversight – the Role of Parliament”, held in May 2015 in Belgrade, set a framework for regional cooperation and operations of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH. The Memorandum of Understanding signed during the Conference defines the forms of cooperation on development and activities aimed at promoting the need for fighting corruption and increasing transparency of parliamentary activities and the parliament's oversight over the executive branch of government in our country. In this regard, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will be working on such issues as organisation of joint conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings, training and educational programmes, and will provide support to the development of projects aimed at developing cooperation, exchanging information on programmes and laws passed at the level of BiH institutions and other forms of regional cooperation.

1.4 Establishment of a regional chapter of GOPAC

By forming GOPAC's chapters in the countries of the region, such as Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Macedonia and Serbia, conditions have been created for the creation of a regional chapter of GOPAC.

The countries of the region are facing similar problems and challenges in fighting corruption, which is the reason why it is of paramount importance to develop closer cooperation among their parliaments and GOPAC's national chapters. The formation of a regional chapter of GOPAC would help establish regular communication between the BiH parliamentarians and parliamentarians in the region, exchange experiences and provide mutual assistance in fighting corruption and overseeing the executive branch. This would also mean the accomplishment of the goals proclaimed in the Memorandum of Understanding signed during the international conference entitled “Transparency and Accountability for Effective Oversight – the Role of Parliament”, which took place in May 2015 in Belgrade.

For the purpose of a more effective work on the creation of a regional chapter, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will appoint its representatives who will represent this Chapter in GOPAC's regional chapter.

1.5 Cooperation with the GOPAC Secretariat and global chapters for the purpose of exchanging experiences and improving operations

GOPAC's Chapter will continually cooperate with the GOPAC Secretariat in the area of parliamentary oversight and fight against corruption, which makes it possible to identify and monitor the global trends.

The GOPAC Global Conference, which is organised every second year and brings together leaders, members, the future members, donors and other interested stakeholders to encourage, inspire, inform and assist the work and continued fight against corruption by GOPAC's chapters and their members.

GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will appoint its representative who will report to the GOPAC Secretariat and participate in the GOPAC Global Conference.

❖ **GOAL 2 – TO BUILD CAPACITIES OF BiH PARLIAMENTARIANS**

In order for the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH to improve its scrutiny role and to carry out its oversight over the executive branch of government more effectively, it is necessary to raise awareness about the importance of the fight against corruption and to train parliamentarians of both Houses in this area. In this regard, in cooperation with the organisations which will be providing logistical support to its operations, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will organise workshops for its members and will ensure support from international experts in order to develop and strengthen its own capacities.

2.1. Organisation and implementation of workshops

In cooperation with international organisations, civil society organisations and the academic community, workshops for the GOPAC members are planned. The topics of the workshops will be identified on the basis of proposals by the members of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH and the key priorities of the Global Organisation, tailored to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the priorities of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH.

Topics:

- The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the role of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH in its implementation,
- The legislation relevant for fighting corruption in BiH,
- Public finance management: budget planning, corruption risks, verification of legality, purposefulness and efficiency of public expenditure,
- Personal and institutional integrity of parliamentarians of both Houses and the public image of the PA BiH,
- Cooperation between the BiH Parliamentary Assembly and independent institutions at the state level (BiH Audit Office, Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption, the BiH Prosecutor's Office, the Appeals Office...),
- Cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH and the academic community, civil society organisations and the media.

2.2. Ensuring international expertise to support capacity building and development of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH

Under Article 15 of the Charter, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH, as a non-partisan and voluntary parliamentary group, receives support from international organisations, foundations, institutions and civil society organisations in the form of logistical support and through their specialised projects and programmes. In this regard, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will maintain continued communication with these organisations, foundations and institutions with a view to seeking support and initiating mutual cooperation, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will maintain permanent communication also with the GOPAC

Secretariat and international experts for the purpose of building capacities of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH in the areas which will emerge as a priority in its operations.

❖ **GOAL 3 – TO PRESENT RESULTS, COMMUNICATE WITH CITIZENS AND RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF SUPPRESSION OF CORRUPTION**

Successful fight against corruption is not possible without active participation of all segments of society. The long-term goal of raising awareness about zero tolerance of any form or level of corruption and of promoting an active fight of citizens against corruption requires the existence of a concrete impact of the fight against corruption in BiH and, accordingly, building of the BiH citizens' trust in GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH.

Also, the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH is accountable primarily to citizens. Hence, the main partner in oversight over public finances should be sought precisely in citizens. Transparency and accountability are not possible without an active engagement of all layers of society. Communication with citizens means, on the one hand, informing the public about all steps taken towards fighting corruption while, on the other, it is not restricted to a one-way communication; rather, various forms of consultations and dialogue with civil society organisations are equally necessary.

In this regard, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will keep the public informed about its activities via the PA BiH's website and will encourage the citizen participation and dissemination of information to citizens about concrete activities of the Chapter, its progress and improvement of transparency and accountability as well as about good practices in BiH and other states.

3.1. Securing transparency of work and informing the public about activities of GOPAC's Chapter in PA BiH

GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will be regularly encouraging transparency of the work of the PA BiH through the PA BiH's website and dissemination of information to the media in BiH and informing the public about concrete activities and progress made in the prevention of and fight against corruption in BiH as well as about good practices in BiH and other states.

The activities undertaken by GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH related to the Chapter's operations will be posted on the website of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. In addition to the contact information of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH, the basic documents under which the Chapter operates and the information on the main responsibilities of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH, its meetings, an annual progress report and the information on any other activity will be posted on the website of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH.

The public will be able to email directly to the members of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH via the website of the PA BiH, send them a query and propose legal and other initiatives and propose questions from MPs to the relevant institutions.

The public in BiH will be kept informed about anti-corruption activities of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH through the news media and brochures of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH.

Upon completion of the meetings of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH and any other activity implemented under this work programme, the members will give press statements and the BiH public at large will be informed about the most important activities carried out by GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH.

3.2. Promotion of anti-corruption legislation

GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will keep the public in BiH informed via the website of the PA BiH and through timely information sharing with electronic and print media about the implementation of activities arising from the country's obligations under the UN Convention against Corruption as well as about the relevant proposals and laws important for the fight against corruption in BiH and the operations of the executive branch of government.

In the next period, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will initiate the passage of new laws and amendments to the existing laws to contribute to the prevention of corruption in our country.

3.3. Cooperation with civil society organisations, academic community and the media

The operations of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH imply also a broader social activity and establishment of cooperation with civil society organisations with a view to ensuring high standards of integrity and the protection of public interests through the discharge of public duties and social communication. In this regard, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will explore the possibility of establishing and maintaining direct cooperation with and developing possible advisory role of civil society organisations directly involved in the fight against corruption which could provide support to GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH through their own experiences.

GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will initiative consultative meetings with the representatives of the civil society, academic community and the media to discuss the possibility of cooperation and actions in the fight against corruption and will invite them to inform the members of this Chapter about the findings of their research, analyses and reports within their anti-corruption projects.

3.4. Cooperation with independent institutions of the state and judicial authorities

GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will establish permanent communication and cooperation with independent institutions of the state. In this regard, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will pay particular attention to cooperation with the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption

and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption, the BiH Audit Office and the relevant judicial authorities involved in efforts to prevent and combat corruption in our country, particularly in regard to the consideration of regular progress reports of these institutions.

In cooperation with the relevant parliamentary committees, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will be exchanging information and monitoring the implementation of recommendations and conclusions of both Houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH relating to the reports by independent authorities of the state, in accordance with the Anti-Corruption Strategy 2015-2019 and the Action Plan to Implement the Strategy.

With a view to emphasizing the importance of reports and recommendations by independent institutions of the state in the fight against corruption and a more effective oversight over the executive authorities and analysing mechanisms for further actions in response to their reports, cooperation with independent institutions of the state will be implemented through consultative meetings, workshops and public hearings.

❖ **GOAL 4 – ACTIVITIES OF GOPAC'S CHAPTER IN PA BiH DOMESTICALLY, REGIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY**

Cooperation with regional and international parliamentary bodies and the GOPAC network is of paramount importance for the improvement of operations of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH, exchange of positive experiences and good practices and for the promotion of the results of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH in the fight against corruption. The Global Organisation will assist through its network the national chapters of GOPAC in developing capacity building programmes, including the promotion and encouragement of research and studies related to the fight against corruption.

4.1. Participation in the GOPAC Global Conference

The GOPAC Global Conference is organised every second year to bring together leaders, members, the future members, donors and other interested stakeholders in order to encourage, inspire, inform and assist the work and continued fight against corruption by GOPAC's national chapters and their members. During the conference, the participants have an opportunity to participate in days-long workshops and meetings with other GOPAC members from all over the world. This is an opportunity to analyse progress, to exchange experiences in fighting corruption and to develop new ideas.

4.2. Participation in the GOPAC regional meetings

In order to encourage the establishment of national chapters in other countries of the region, GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will initiate a regional meeting with the parliamentarians of the region to exchange good practices and experiences in the functioning of GOPAC's chapters in the parliaments in this region. GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH will pay particular attention to the organisation of and participation in regional meetings with the representatives of parliaments of the countries in the region which have not yet become members of this global organisation. The purpose of such meetings is to form GOPAC's regional chapter which would ensure regular communication between the members of GOPAC's Chapter in the PA BiH and the parliamentarians in the countries of the region which are members of GOPAC and exchange of experiences and provision of mutual assistance in preventing corruption and overseeing the executive branch of government.