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**PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA)**

**Declaration on Parliamentary Ethics and Accountability**

June 3-4, 2004  
United States Senate  
Room SD-G11  
Washington, D.C.

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Considering that parliamentarians play a key role in promoting good governance and curbing corruption and poor administration in all sectors of society;

Recognising that parliamentarians have the legitimate authority to take decisions that determine the fortunes of both the state and its citizens;

Recognising further that transparency, ethics and accountability are preconditions of good governance;

Considering that parliamentarians are expected to maintain high ethical standards in all spheres of life;

Recognising the urgent need to establish and strengthen the trust the citizens have in the ability of their elected leaders to act in the public interest;

Recognizing further that failure by the parliamentarians to live up to these expectations can undermine development, compromise the quality of government, and also weaken the legitimacy of the state and its institutions;

Recognizing that unethical behaviour often creates conditions of injustice, discrimination and marginalisation which are constant threats to democracy, the stability of states and worldwide peace;

WE, THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA) SEMINAR ON PARLIAMENTARY ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY, HELD AT THE UNITED STATES SENATE IN WASHINGTON, DC ON JUNE 3-4, 2004 HEREBY AGREE:

***On Parliamentary ethics:***

- 1 To Encourage*** the adoption of codes of conduct and/or binding regulations for parliamentarians and to promote their dissemination among the parliamentarians and the community at large.
- 2 To Support*** the establishment of independent and autonomous accountability and regulatory bodies with the status and resources necessary to carry out their functions.
- 3 To Encourage*** legislators to review the provision of adequate sanctions for misconduct by parliamentarians, including limiting privileges and immunities.
- 4 To Discourage*** the passage of legislation that discriminates against segments of the population based on ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs or any other distinction that could lead to unfavourable treatment.

***On the financing of political parties and election campaigns:***

1. ***To Revise*** laws, regulations and practises regarding the financing of political parties' activities and election campaigns, with a view to reducing the potential for corruption and conflicts of interests.
2. ***To Promote*** full disclosure of sources and amounts of campaign and political party funding, assets and expenditure. This means not only ensuring that the information is available but making it accessible to the general public.
3. ***To ensure*** that costs of standing for election and being an elected representative are such that all sections of society have an equitable chance to be elected.
4. ***To Promote*** open and fair access to the public and private media for all political parties and candidates in order to prevent bias in the coverage of politics.

***On civil society engagement:***

1. ***To Facilitate*** the active involvement of civil society in the process of drafting codes of conduct and laws to regulate campaign finance and conflicts of interest.
2. ***To Encourage*** national and international agencies to work with PGA to develop and disseminate a program on ethics and accountability including promoting the ratification of the UN Convention Against Corruption and related regional instruments, as well as the enactment of codes of conduct.

***Done in Washington, DC, USA  
on June 3-4, 2004***