



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13 February 2021

Excellency,

Please find enclosed, for your information, the draft programme of the annual hearing of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at the United Nations, which will take place virtually on Wednesday, 17 February from 9:00am to 12:00pm (EST) and on Thursday, 18 February from 9:00am to 12:00pm (EST).

As is customary, the topic of the IPU annual hearing relates to an upcoming United Nations milestone event and priority. This year's hearing will tackle the issue of fighting corruption, restoring trust in government and improving development prospects. It will allow parliamentarians to engage on these issues with experts, UN officials and national diplomats engaged in the process, ahead of the UNGA Special Session against corruption which will take place in NYC on 2-4 June 2021.

The hearing will be webcast and can be followed on webtv.un.org.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Fighting corruption to restore trust in government
and improve development prospects



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

*Annual Parliamentary
Hearing*

17 and 18 February 2021

**9 am to 12 noon EST (New York
time)\ Held virtually on Interprefy**



Programme

Moderated by Ms. Claire Doole
www.doolecommunications.com

Wednesday, 17 February	
09:00 – 09:15	Opening session
	Mr. Volkan Bozkir , President of the 75th session of the General Assembly Mr. Duarte Pacheco , President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
09:15 – 09:30	Keynote speech
	Ms. Delia Ferreira Rubio , Chair of the Board, Transparency International <i>How corruption undermines democracy and development: the need for parliamentary engagement</i>
09:30 – 11:10	The Convention Against Corruption: building blocks and implementation challenges
	Leading questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What difference has the 2005 United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) made?• How can the implementation of UNCAC be made more effective?• Have new issues emerged over the years that the UNGASS 2021 should address?• How to ensure that other emergencies including pandemics do not derail anti-corruption efforts? Presenters <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H. E. Mr. Ahmad bin Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, Speaker of Shura Council State of Qatar, Chair of the Board, Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)• Ms. Cynthia Lopez Castro, MP, Congress of Mexico, member of the Bureau of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians• H. E. Mr. Eric Anderson Machado, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations Office at Vienna, and Co-facilitator for the Political Declaration of the UNGASS 2021 against corruption• Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Video break	
11:15 – 12:00	Corruption involving vast quantities of assets (VQA), aka “grand corruption”
	<p>Presentation of a proposal to create an international anti-corruption court or other mechanism to prosecute corrupt leaders who may evade justice in their own countries.</p> <p>Leading questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a new anti-corruption court politically and practically feasible? • What other ways are there to ensure justice and the restitution of stolen assets in cases of “grand corruption”? <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H. E. Ambassador Kjersti E. Andersen, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office at Vienna • Justice Richard Goldstone (South Africa), Co-founder and Board Member, Integrity Initiatives International • Mr. Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)
Thursday, 18 February	
09:00 – 10:15	Gender-sensitive anti-corruption policies
	<p>Leading questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does corruption affect women and men differently? • What are the gender impacts on corruption? • What measures can be taken to strengthen the gender dimension of anti-corruption efforts? <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Susan Kihika, Senate of Kenya, President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and former prosecutor • H.E. Mr. Alie Kabba, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, President of the Executive Board or UN Women, member of the Gender Advisory Group of the President of the General Assembly • Dr. Anna Petherick, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, gender-corruption expert <p>Background reading: <i>The Time is Now: addressing the gender dimensions of corruption</i></p>
Video break	
10:20 – 11:50	Key anti-corruption measures: assets disclosure and beneficial ownership, whistle-blowers, and financing of political parties/elections
	<p>Leading questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does UNCAC go far enough to make beneficial ownership transparent, protect whistle-blowers and prevent corruption in financing of politics? • What are some of the best practices at the national level? <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Fadli Zon, MP, People’s Representative Council of Indonesia, and Chair of Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC) • Mr. Akmal Saidov, MP, Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, Member of the IPU Executive Committee • Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, CEO and Executive Director, UN Global Compact

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Ana Gomes, former Member of the European Parliament, former diplomat
11: 50 – 12:00	Closing session
	Mr. Volkan Bozkir , President of the 75th session of the General Assembly Mr. Duarte Pacheco , President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union