



Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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Draft report

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Addendum

VII. Consideration of notification requirements in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention (art. 6, para. 3; art. 23, para. 2 (d); art. 44, para. 6 (a); art. 46, paras. 13 and 14; art. 55, para. 5; and art. 66, para. 4)

1. At its [...] meeting, on [...] January 2008, the Conference considered agenda item 6, “Consideration of notification requirements in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention (art. 6, para. 3; art. 23, para. 2 (d); art. 44, para. 6 (a); art. 46, paras. 13 and 14; art. 55, para. 5; and art. 66, para. 4)”. The Conference had before it a conference room paper on the status of ratification of the Convention as at 20 January 2008 and notifications, declarations and reservations thereto (CAC/COSP/2008/CRP.1). The conference room paper provided information on the notifications submitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention. Declarations and reservations made by States parties at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession were also included.

VIII. Other matters

2. At its [...]th meeting, on 1 February 2008, the Conference adopted a draft decision entitled “Venue for the third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption” (CAC/COSP/2008/L.5).



Special events

3. A number of special events were organized in conjunction with the second session of the Conference, as described below.

1. Artists for Integrity

4. On 28 January 2008, an event entitled “Artists for Integrity” took place. Leading figures from the world of the arts, literature and the media gathered to increase and disseminate knowledge about the prevention of corruption. In the presence of Conference participants and representatives of the media and civil society, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime appointed the film actress Famke Janssen as Goodwill Ambassador for the promotion of integrity. As part of the event, plans were formulated for the effective engagement of role models in the implementation of awareness-raising activities.

2. Round table on corruption and development

5. On 29 January 2008, a round table attended by representatives of bilateral and multilateral technical assistance providers and other States and organizations was held. The meeting was opened by the Vice-President of the World Bank and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The majority of the speakers stressed that the fight against corruption and the strengthening of criminal justice systems were key to the promotion of good governance and central to the development agenda.

6. Several speakers acknowledged the ability of the Convention to serve as a framework for the effective provision of technical assistance. The ensuing discussion focused on ways to mainstream the Convention in development assistance work. It was noted that that objective could be achieved at three levels: the country level, where technical assistance activities were implemented; the international level, where activities to promote international cooperation were conducted; and the level of central aid providers, where development cooperation policies and strategies were formulated.

7. It was stressed that mainstreaming the Convention in development assistance work did not imply that conditions were to be imposed on the recipients of such assistance. Considerable emphasis was placed on the need to ensure that technical assistance to prevent and combat corruption was delivered in the most coordinated manner possible. It was noted that the report of the Secretariat on the self-assessment of technical assistance needs for the implementation of the Convention (CAC/COSP/2008/2/Add.1) provided a fair picture of the demand side of technical assistance. In that regard, it was suggested that development assistance providers should publish information on assistance delivered and that that initiative should be part of the follow-up to the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability.

3. Forum for parliamentarians: implementing and overseeing the United Nations Convention against Corruption

8. On 30 January 2008, a forum for parliamentarians took place. The Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption, the U4 Anti-Corruption

Resource Centre and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime co-organized the event, which was attended by parliamentarians from more than 15 countries. A representative of the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre presented a report on national anti-corruption policy frameworks, placing considerable emphasis on findings related to the role of parliamentarians in preventing and combating corruption. The forum focused on follow-up action taken in relation to priority areas identified at the first session of the Conference. The forum adopted the Declaration of the Forum of Parliamentarians, which was brought to the attention of the Conference at its 9th meeting, on 1 February 2008.

4. Business coalition: the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a new market force

9. On 30 January 2008, an event was held for representatives of the business community. The event was organized jointly by the Global Compact Office of the Secretariat, the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Economic Forum Partnering against Corruption Initiative, Transparency International and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Participants in the event discussed such issues as the alignment of corporate anti-corruption principles to the fundamental values of the Convention and the adoption of effective mechanisms to review corporate compliance with those principles. Participants emphasized the need to adopt an unequivocal position on facilitation payments, thus addressing one of the major inconsistencies of existing business principles. Also discussed at the event were measures to support anti-corruption efforts of small and medium-sized enterprises and to promote public-private partnerships. The outcome of the event was reflected in a declaration that was brought to the attention of the Conference at its 9th meeting, on 1 February 2008.

5. Peer-to-peer media forum: covering corruption with integrity

10. On 31 January 2008, a forum was held as a special event for media representatives. The forum was supported by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the International Press Institute, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The forum brought together journalists from 15 least developed countries that had ratified the Convention and four journalists from major media networks, including the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Cable News Network (CNN). The forum emphasized the importance of empowering journalists in States that, by virtue of having ratified the Convention, had assumed a legal obligation to implement it. The contribution of the media to the anti-corruption debate was stressed, and such issues as fair and balanced reporting on alleged cases of corruption were discussed at length. The outcome of the forum was reflected in a declaration, which was brought to the attention of the Conference at its 9th meeting, on 1 February 2008.

6. Bribery of officials of public international organizations: round-table discussion with representatives of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and interested Member States

11. Pursuant to Conference resolution 1/7, entitled “Consideration of bribery of officials of public international organizations”, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime presented in March 2007 a proposal to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to undertake a system-wide integrity initiative. The Chief Executives Board endorsed the proposal. Based on a checklist prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, a voluntary consultative process was initiated to review, taking into account the United Nations Convention against Corruption, internal regulations and rules of the participating organizations. A meeting on the subject was held in Vienna on 28 September 2007.

12. A round-table discussion on bribery of officials of public international organizations was held on 31 January 2008. It was chaired by a representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and attended by representatives of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Food Programme and three interested Member States (Chile, Indonesia and Portugal). Participants reiterated their support for the initiative and their commitment to the consultative process and provided further information on their internal regulations and rules. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was requested to finalize the analysis of the submitted information and share it for comments with the members of the Chief Executives Board. Participants also noted the efforts reflected in the note by the Secretariat on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission (A/62/329).

7. Ministerial round table on the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative

13. It was noted that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank had launched the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative on 17 September 2007. Work under that joint initiative included activities to promote the implementation of the Convention, the provision of assistance to developing countries in building capacity for mutual legal assistance and the forging of partnerships for sharing information and expertise. A joint funding vehicle was to be established to provide assistance to States in building capacity for asset recovery. Other possible activities included the development of training tools, a library of good practices and a Web-based list of focal points. To oversee the work of the StAR Initiative, a joint StAR secretariat, based at the World Bank and including staff from both the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, would be tasked with coordinating all activities under the Initiative. To strengthen the collective effort, the Initiative would benefit from the advice and guidance of the “Friends of StAR”, a small group composed of influential, experienced individuals from developed and developing countries.

14. The ministerial round table on the StAR Initiative, held on 29 January 2008, was opened by the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, who stated that Indonesia was fully committed to the work of the Initiative. The Chairman of the round table

highlighted the difficulties involved in asset recovery and the main features of the StAR Initiative. It was noted that chapter V of the Convention provided a unique framework and that the implementation of the provisions in that chapter provided an outstanding basis for anti-corruption policy. Several participants described asset recovery cases in their countries. Participants highlighted the crucial role of financial institutions in asset recovery cases, the importance of having a sound legislative framework and the fact that asset recovery required a joint effort by the requesting and the requested States. It was agreed that the StAR Initiative could play a pivotal role in facilitating asset recovery.

IX. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Conference

15. At its [...] meeting, on 1 February 2008, the Conference approved the draft provisional agenda for its third session (CAC/COSP/2008/L.2), on the understanding that the provisional agenda and proposed organization of work would be finalized by the Secretariat in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

X. Adoption of the report of the Conference on its second session

16. At its [...] meeting, on 1 February 2008, the Conference adopted the report on its second session (CAC/COSP/2008/L.1 and Add.1-[...]).
