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Summary Report of the Launch Event of the Global Judicial Integrity Network

Vienna, 9 - 10 April 2018



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1. INTRODUCTION

The launch of the Global Judicial Integrity Network in April 2018 in Vienna, Austria is a historic milestone in the efforts to strengthen judicial integrity and prevent corruption in the justice system. It represents the largest and most diverse meeting of judges and other justice sector stakeholders ever organized under the auspices of the United Nations.

Through UNODC's long-standing work on the topic of judicial integrity, it became evident that judges would benefit from a platform that would allow them to share experiences and good practices, learn from each other, join forces in the development of tools and provide peer-to-peer support.

The concrete idea to establish a new global judicial integrity network was born under UNODC's Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, which was launched in 2016 and in response to the Doha Declaration adopted at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2015.

What followed was a long process of extensive consultations, preparatory meetings and exchanges with around 4,000 judges and other relevant justice sector stakeholders from across the world, with a view to allowing UNODC to better understand judges' needs and expectations from the new network. In particular, an online survey was disseminated in 2017 to more than 1,000 judges and stakeholders from over 140 countries, seven regional preparatory meetings were held in Burkina Faso, Jordan, Namibia, Panama, Thailand, Tunisia and at the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna, and input was gathered through over 20 meetings organized by partner institutions. All these activities have helped UNODC to develop a basis for the new Global Judicial Integrity Network and have culminated into the official launch of the Network on 9 and 10 April 2018 in Vienna.

This summary report provides a brief overview of the discussions and outcomes of the launch event. It aims to capture the main messages and recommendations stemming from the plenary and thematic breakout sessions, and draws attention to the key outcomes of the launch event, namely the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the new Global Judicial Integrity Network and of the Declaration on Judicial Integrity.

2. MEETING DETAILS

The launch of the Global Judicial Integrity Network was held in Vienna, Austria on 9 and 10 April 2018. It brought together over 350 participants, including 35 Chief Justices, from 106 countries and 40 judicial associations and relevant organizations. For more information about the event and related documentation (agenda, list of participation, discussion guides for thematic breakout sessions, photos, videos and news



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stories), please visit a webpage dedicated to the launch event:
<https://www.unodc.org/ji/en/restricted/network-launch.html>.

3. SUMMARY

A. Welcoming and Opening Remarks

(Day 1, 9 April 2018, 09:00 -10:15)

Participants to the launch event were welcomed with **video messages** by **Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations**, and **Mr. Yury Fedotov, the Executive Director of UNODC and Director General of the United Nations Office in Vienna**.

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed congratulated all participants for coming together under the framework of the new Network to support and learn from each other. She recalled Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Agenda and noted that strong, independent and impartial judiciaries were a cornerstone for its implementation. She recalled that in many countries judiciaries faced serious challenges, including political interference, outright attacks on judicial independence, budgetary constraints in the face of exploding caseloads, and diminishing public confidence stemming from perceived corruption. She praised the inspiring examples of many judiciaries taking on these challenges with courage and determination, e.g. by putting in place strong judicial commissions, robust codes of conduct, responsive complaints systems and effective disciplinary proceedings. She also emphasized the role of the Implementation Review Mechanism under the UN Convention against Corruption in identifying and disseminating good practices in the implementation of its article 11 on *Measures relating to the judiciary and prosecution services*¹. She promised participants the full support of the United Nations, including to promote the 2030 Agenda and the Convention.

Mr. Yury Fedotov recalled the work of the Judicial Integrity Group and the development of the landmark Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct that became the gold standard for judicial conduct and the basis for the development of numerous national codes². He noted the importance of allowing judges to share experiences, exchange good practices and support each other, and stressed that the Network would provide such an opportunity and would serve as a resource for addressing new and emerging challenges. He also acknowledged many encouraging examples of judiciaries taking on bold reforms and working towards a mutually reinforcing balance between independence and accountability. Mr. Fedotov concluded by thanking

¹ For more information about the Convention and the Implementation Review Mechanism, please visit:
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/uncac.html>.

² Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct can be accessed in multiple languages at:
<https://www.judicialintegritygroup.org/jig-downloads/jig-documents>. In addition, the Commentary on the Bangalore Principles can be accessed in multiple languages at:
https://www.unodc.org/ji/resdb/data/2007/220/commentary_on_the_bangalore_principles_of_judicial_conduct.html?lng=en.



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the State of Qatar for its contribution to the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, which enabled UNODC to support judges and other justice sector stakeholders in this important work.

Mr. John Brandolino, Director of UNODC's Division for Treaty Affairs, delivered the official opening remarks for the launch. He explained UNODC's work in the area of judicial integrity, in particular the development of international standards and tools and the provision of technical assistance. He provided an overview of the events and efforts leading to the establishment of the Global Judicial Integrity Network. He stressed that the intention for the Network was not to create a new organization or body, but rather to provide a platform of judges and for judges to share good practices, learn from and support each other and join forces in the development of new practical tools and guidance on strengthening integrity and preventing corruption in the justice system.

H.E. Sheikh Ali Jassim T.J. Al-Thani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Vienna, delivered brief remarks on the importance of the launch of the Global Judicial Integrity Network as one of the key steps in the implementation of the UNODC Global Programme on the Implementation of the Doha Declaration. He highlighted the value of the initiative in providing a space for judges to work together towards collective solutions in strengthening judicial integrity and preventing corruption in judiciaries.

Six distinguished participants delivered opening remarks.

Honourable Walter Samuel Nkanu Onnoghen, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, stressed that judicial integrity underpinned the rule of law and encompassed independence, accountability, transparency, ethics and the effective enforcement of judgments. He described the recent reform efforts in Nigeria, such as the establishment of the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Committee and the Corruption Trials Monitoring Committee of the National Judicial Council, the administration of random Quality Ensuring Scan Tests, the designation of specific courts for corruption and financial crime, the review of the Judicial Discipline Regulations and of the Guidelines and Procedural Rules for the Appointment of Judicial Officers, and the introduction of new technologies in court administration. He underscored that the establishment of the Global Judicial Integrity Network was timely and represented the missing link in Nigeria's efforts. He noted the value of close international collaboration and partnerships and welcomed the Network's potential in developing global standards and sharing lessons learnt.

Honourable Jean Daoud Fahed, First President of the Court of Cassation of Lebanon and the President of the Supreme Judicial Council, recalled the importance of the separation of powers and the judiciaries' role in guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of citizens. He explained that strengthening judicial integrity is at the heart of Lebanon's efforts and noted several recent examples of disciplinary proceedings against judges. He described Lebanon's experience in disseminating the culture of judicial ethics, including through introducing



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a respective course in judicial schools, organizing dedicated workshops and training activities, and conducting the evaluation of judges. He stressed that judicial challenges were similar all around the world and judiciaries should therefore join forces in addressing them. He underlined the role of the Global Judicial Integrity Network in strengthening judicial cooperation and addressing emerging issues, such as the use of social media by judges.

Honourable Elisabeth Lovrek, Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Austria, expressed her belief that the launch of the Global Judicial Integrity Network was a major step in strengthening the rule of law and promoting a culture of lawfulness. She noted that the Network would help the global community to identify best practices in the fight for the rule of law and against corruption and would strengthen judicial cooperation between courts and tribunals from different legal and cultural traditions. She explained that the Austrian judiciary had a long tradition of independence, transparency and impartiality and that the Supreme Court of Austria was strongly engaged in judicial cooperation with Supreme Courts from all over the world. She concluded her remarks by inviting all participants to take part in a social event, co-hosted by the Supreme Court of Austria and the State of Qatar, in the evening of 9 April 2018.

Honourable Maria Thereza Moura, Justice of the Superior Court of Justice of Brazil and Director-General of the Brazilian National Magistrates School, emphasized that the judicial power is a pillar of the rule of law and no rule of law was possible without judicial independence, integrity, transparency and diligence. She noted the crucial role of international cooperation, especially given the rise in the level of transnational crime and the fact that all judiciaries faced similar problems. She stressed the importance of judicial training, including the importance of training the trainers and using innovative teaching methods, and shared Brazil's ongoing efforts in providing quality training to judges as a good practice example. She concluded by noting that the Global Judicial Integrity Network came at the best possible time and would provide opportunities for sharing of experiences and knowledge.

Honourable Zainun Ali, Judge of the Federal Court of Malaysia, shared Malaysia's experience in strengthening judicial integrity and, as an example, referred to the establishment of the Judicial Appointments Commission and the Malaysian Judicial Academy, the introduction of a Court Recording and Transcription Device, and the adoption of the Judges Code of Ethics based on the Bangalore Principles. She noted that judicial corruption takes many forms and the most common was political interference in the judicial process and bribery. In that regard, she noted that maintaining judicial integrity is crucial and recalled that Malaysia required judges to declare their assets upon appointment. She acknowledged that there was always room for improvement and that the Malaysian Judiciary would support the Global Judicial Integrity Network in the pursuit of strengthening and upholding the core values of the justice system.

Honourable Allyson K. Duncan, judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and chair of the International Judicial Relations Committee of the United States Judicial Conference, noted that independence, integrity and the rule of law are the key values of the judiciary of the United States. She



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expressed her conviction that countries should create a culture of judicial independence and that judiciaries should be provided with adequate resources. In particular, she mentioned the following as important components of creating strong judiciaries - transparent judicial systems; codes of ethics; evaluation of judges' conduct; and continued judicial training. She emphasized the key role of the Global Judicial Integrity Network in such endeavours.

B. Plenary Session on Challenges and Good Practices in Promoting Judicial Integrity and Preventing Corruption in the Justice System – The Role of the Global Judicial Integrity Network
(Day 1, 9 April 2018, 10:45-12:00)

The session was moderated by **Ms. Brigitte Strobel-Shaw, Chief of the Conference Support Section of UNODC's Corruption and Economic Crime Branch**, who clarified that the session aimed at setting the scene for all the other upcoming plenary and breakout sessions and would focus on the important global developments in the area of judicial integrity and the role of the new Global Judicial Integrity Network. She invited four panellists to deliver presentations.

Ms. Roberta Solis, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, UNODC's Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, introduced in more concrete terms the Global Judicial Integrity Network's objectives and planned activities. She explained how judges, judiciaries and other stakeholders could get involved and actively contribute to the Network's services. She emphasized that the Network would promote in-person and online opportunities for the information-exchange and peer-to-peer advice, help to identify priority challenges and issues, and connect existing local and regional initiatives to amplify their results. She introduced the Network's new website (www.unodc.org/ji) and its key features, including the resource database, news stories, opinion pieces and event information. She encouraged Network participants to register for the website's restricted area aimed at promoting direct contact and exchanges. She also informed that UNODC had embarked on the development of Judicial Ethics Training Tools based on the Bangalore Principles, consisting of an interactive e-learning course, a text-based self-directed course and a trainer's manual. She noted that the tools were due for completion by 2018 and would be available in all UN languages and in Portuguese. She encouraged countries to become pilot sites and informed that further updates would also be provided on the website.

Honourable Rudolf Mellinshoff, Member of the Judicial Integrity Group and President of the Federal Supreme Finance Court of Germany, provided an overview of the origins of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct and of the subsequent developments. He recalled the extensive work of the Judicial Integrity Group, including the preparation of a Commentary and Measures for the Effective Implementation of the Bangalore



Principles and the translation of the Group's documents for wider dissemination³. He stressed that the Bangalore Principles had been referred to by numerous international bodies, had inspired many national codes of conduct, and had been used in training programmes and conferences. He noted the need to review the Principles to identify potential gaps and areas of improvement in view of new or emerging issues, such as digitization, social media, sexual harassment and gender discrimination. He also raised a question whether the six values underpinning the Principles were exhaustive. He invited participants to a dedicated thematic breakout session (see below) and welcomed the Network's potential in addressing this important topic.

Honourable Diego Garcia-Sayán, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, addressed the issue of corruption as a threat to judicial independence and the delivery of justice. He stressed the damaging impact of corruption on judiciaries, human rights, access to justice and resources, in particular how corruption decreases public trust in justice and weakens the capacity of judicial systems to guarantee the protection of human rights. He recalled that judicial integrity was not only the essential ingredient for the effective performance of judicial systems, but that it was judicial systems themselves which played the key role in combatting corruption. He explained how the United Nations, including through his office as the Special Rapporteur as well as the UN Convention against Corruption, addressed this topic. He underscored that the new Network had an immense potential to strengthen international cooperation and create a common language and perspective in addressing the various relevant issues.

Honourable Christophe Régnard, President of the International Association of Judges, presented the new 2017 Universal Charter of Judges and the efforts the Association in strengthening judicial integrity⁴. He noted that a large body of international standards had emerged throughout the years; however, he noted two limitations. First, while those rules were often prepared by working groups composed of judges, their adoption often represented a political consensus and thus weakened the guarantees for judges. Second, those rules were not obligatory and bore no sanctions for non-compliance. He explained that the new Charter aimed at addressing those limitations and identifying general standards for respecting judicial independence internally and externally. He introduced the Charter's nine articles dealing with, among others, recruitment and training; appointment; promotion and assessment; ethics; discipline; remuneration, social protection and retirement. He noted the important potential of the Global Judicial Integrity Network in promoting international standards and identifying gaps, and also invited participants to a dedicated breakout session (see below).

In the ensuing discussion, **Honourable Ismail Rustu Cirit, the First President of the Court of Cassation of Turkey**, noted the shared responsibility of all members of judiciaries for preventing corruption, ensuring integrity and strengthening accountability and professionalism. He recalled the Istanbul Declaration on

³ The Judicial Integrity Group's website (<https://www.judicialintegritygroup.org/>) provides access to the documents in multiple languages: <https://www.judicialintegritygroup.org/jig-downloads/jig-documents>.

⁴ The updated Universal Charter of the Judge can be accessed in twelve language versions at: https://www.unodc.org/ji/en/resdb/data/2007/the_universal_charter_of_the_judge_2007.html



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Transparency in the Judicial Process as a guideline laying down principles of judicial transparency and endorsed by Chief Justices and Justices from the Asian and Balkan Regions. He informed that the implementing measures for the Declaration were developed in 2017 and that the fourth High Courts Summit on Judicial Transparency in Istanbul on 10 to 13 October 2018 would provide an opportunity to introduce the Declaration to a larger group of jurisdictions.

Honourable Haider Ahmed Dafalla Ahmed, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Sudan, noted the need to strengthen efforts in ensuring judicial integrity. Among others, he noted the importance of compulsory asset declarations for judges with a view to preventing corruption and avoiding conflict of interest. He welcomed the establishment of the Network in assisting judiciaries across the globe in their endeavours.

Honourable Emad Salim, the President of the Supreme Judicial Council of the State of Palestine, noted his country's efforts in strengthening judicial integrity, including inspections of judges' misconduct, the adoption of the code of judicial conduct based on the Bangalore Principles and enhancing financial independence of judges.

Honourable Arcadio Diaz Tejera, Senior Judge and Member of the Court of Appeal of Canary Islands and Legal Adviser and Coordinator of the Action Plan for Strengthening the Independence and the Impartiality of Judges in the Member States of the Council of Europe, reminded that judicial independence and decision-making by judges should always be within the scope of the law.

C. Thematic Breakout Sessions

(Day 1, 9 April 2018, 14:00-15:15 and 15:45-17:00; Day 2, 10 April 2018, 09:00-10:15 and 10:45-12:00)

The afternoon of the first day and the morning of the second day of the launch event were dedicated to 16 thematic breakout sessions (i.e. four time slots were allocated for four sessions running in parallel). The sessions were organized by a multitude of partners cooperating with UNODC in the organisation of the launch to address various sub-topics related to : 1. strengthening judicial integrity and accountability; 2. preventing corruption in the justice system; and 3. assessing and monitoring integrity.

The sessions provided ample opportunity for all participants to engage actively in the discussions of the respective topics and share relevant experiences of their jurisdictions and institutions. At the end of each session, organizers gathered recommendations emerging from the discussions as inputs for the future work of the Global Judicial Integrity Network. The emerging recommendations were then also collected and presented in the plenary to all participants by UNODC (see below).



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For each thematic session, a detailed discussion guide was prepared in advance of the launch event and a session summary report afterwards. Individual discussion guides and summary reports for each session can be found at: <https://www.unodc.org/ji/en/restricted/network-launch.html>.

The below table includes the key outcomes and recommendations from the 16 thematic breakout sessions:

<p>“The Bangalore Principles after 18 Years” – organized by the Judicial Integrity Group</p> <p>The session focused on whether the Bangalore Principles had stood the test of time and, thus, whether new and emerging issues, such as digitisation, social media or sextortion and sexual harassment were sufficiently addressed. The session concluded confirming the need for a more in-depth study of the issue, and that some adjustments and/or additions to the Bangalore Principles or to the Commentary on the Bangalore Principles might be warranted.</p>
<p>“Judicial Ethics Training” – organized by the International Organization for Judicial Training (IOJT), the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and UNODC</p> <p>Against the background of the International Principles of Judicial Training, the session discussed select experiences and approaches to sensitizing judges on issues related to standards of judicial conduct and ethics and concluded that, since a wide range of diverse jurisdictions had embarked on such type of training using a variety of methods to achieve results, it would be worthwhile for the Network to widen and deepen this exchange of good practices.</p>
<p>"Transparency and How to Demystify the Work of the Courts" – organized by the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) and the Venice Commission</p> <p>The session reviewed a range of good practice examples of jurisdictions pursuing a progressive policy of transparency with a view to demystifying the work of the courts. The participants concluded that it would be beneficial for the Network to further advance this exchange of knowledge through collecting and sharing examples of good practice regarding open justice, including through the use of modern technology and judicial communication policies. The Network could further facilitate the provision of technical assistance in these areas.</p>



"Impact of Digitization on Integrity and Accountability" – organized by the Research Institute on Judicial Systems (IRSIG)

The session explored the impact of the rapid expansion of digitization of various court processes and procedures and its impact on integrity and accountability. Participants concluded that it would be desirable for the Network to assess and possibly embark on the design of guidelines for the development of court and case management software in line with the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct.

"Financial Disclosure for Judges" – organized by the World Bank and UNODC

The session discussed the complex issue of financial disclosure systems for judges. Since many jurisdictions have introduced such systems, while others are in the process of implementing them or are considering to do so, the session concluded that there was a need and opportunity for the Network to further enhance knowledge on good practices as well as challenges relating to financial disclosure for the judiciary.

"A Trade-Off? Balancing Independence and Accountability" – organized by the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association (CMJA)

The session explored a variety of approaches, in particular of a more informal nature, such as peer-to-peer mentoring and coaching, to enhance accountability. It concluded that the Network should focus in particular on the needs of first instance judges, since they were more exposed to integrity related challenges and, from a perspective of the court user, far more relevant to their experience in terms of accessing the justice system.

"Are Specialist Anti-Corruption Courts an Effective Means to Strengthen Judicial Integrity and The Rule of Law?" – organized by the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre

The panel discussed the recent trend of creating specialised anti-corruption courts, often born out of the realisation that regular courts were slow, inefficient and/or lacked the necessary expertise and that sometimes their integrity and independence was in doubt. The session focused on the integrity safeguards in place in specialized anti-corruption courts and how those measures could inspire larger parts of the judiciary. The session concluded by identifying several opportunities for the Network to further support the exchange of good practices and peer-to-peer learning among anti-corruption courts.



"Court Administration and Efficiency for Integrity" – organized by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC)

The session reviewed a variety of court administration practices adopted by courts around the world primarily with a view to enhancing efficiency which, however, in several cases had proven to be also conducive to enhancing integrity. The session touched upon the issues of accountability, misconduct by judges and related complaints, and concluded by recommending that the Network would facilitate the development of a due process good practice guide on the investigation of judicial misconduct.

"Drafting Codes of Conduct – Do's and Don'ts" – organized by the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ)

The session aimed to review good practices as well as lessons learned in the development of codes of conduct and concluded that, in view of the wide variety of experiences gathered during the past two decades in particular, it was opportune for the Network to design a "how-to-guide" for the development of codes and standards of conduct.

"The Risks and Benefits of the Use of Social Media by Judges" – organized by the CEELI Institute

The session explored the risks and benefits of the use of social media by judges. In the absence of any standards in most countries, the session identified great diversity in terms of both approaches and attitudes across jurisdictions as well as individual judges. It, thus, concluded that the development of guidelines for judges on the use of social media would be highly beneficial.

"Promoting Integrity and Combating Corruption in the Justice System - Good Practices and Lessons Learned" – organized by the International Association of Judges (IAJ-UIM)

The session discussed the variety of factors creating risks of corruption, conflict of interest and other forms of misconduct in the judiciary, and concluded that conditions needed to be in place in each judicial system to prevent and detect corruption. Moreover, these conditions required in particular adequate and secure tenures and remuneration. Education programmes were also necessary, as were the identification of guidelines for appropriate behaviour. Processes needed to be established to deal with external threats to the independence of the judiciary, including perceptions of corruption.



“Assessing Disciplinary and Criminal Measures for Judicial Integrity - A Pilot Study!” – organized by the International Bar Association (IBA)

The session presented and discussed the outcomes of a pilot study conducted by the International Bar Association in partnership with the Research Institute on Judicial Systems (IRSIG) and the National Center of States Courts (NCSC), aimed at assessing disciplinary and criminal proceedings and sanctions imposed for judicial misconduct across a variety of select jurisdictions. The session concluded that the research methodology has produced some interesting findings and that there was an opportunity to expand the project to other jurisdictions as well as to disseminate further findings through the Network.

“Sextortion - The Need for New Standards of Judicial Integrity and Accountability” – organized by the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ)

The session discussed the definition and the scope of the problem of sextortion and sexual harassment within the judiciary as well as the adequacy of measures in place to tackle these issues. It concluded that existing frameworks both at the international and domestic level rarely addressed the matter and that there was a need and an opportunity for the Network to support the development of respective standards.

“What's missing - New Approaches to Promote Judicial Integrity” – organized by the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI)

The session discussed a host of issues affecting, directly or indirectly, judicial independence, impartiality and integrity. Specific attention was given to the process by which judicial budgets were developed, released and managed, which exposes the judiciary to multiple risks to its independence in general, to interference with individual decisions, as well as to corruption.

“Implementing Best Practice Guidelines for Judicial Selection and Appointment in Southern and East Africa” – organized by the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit, University of Cape Town (DGRU)

The session featured the presentation of the draft Best Practice Guidelines for Judicial Selection and Appointment in Southern and East Africa. Participants welcomed the draft as a useful source of good practice based guidances relevant beyond the region. Participants further felt that, in order for the guidelines to become truly effective, a system for the monitoring and implementation, ideally with the involvement of civil society, the legal profession and judicial organizations, should be developed.



"Assessing Corruption and Integrity in the Justice System - What Have We Learned?" – organized by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, UNDP, the Research Institute on Judicial Systems (IRSIG) and UNODC

The session reviewed the wide range of existing assessment tools and methodologies and discussed their comparative advantages and weaknesses. The session concluded that there appeared to be a sufficient number of assessment tools to meet the needs of every jurisdiction. At the same time the session recommended to the Network that, through its online library, it should provide access to existing tools, methodologies and assessment reports.

D. Plenary Session on Working Together for Judicial Integrity (Day 2, 10 April 2018, 14:30-16:00)

During this session, **Mr. Oliver Stolpe, Senior Programme Officer, UNODC's Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration**, introduced to participants the recommendations stemming from the thematic breakout sessions, as collected by the designated session rapporteurs. *[Please refer to the table above for the individual recommendations collected during thematic sessions]* Mr. Stolpe underscored that the recommendations addressed numerous pertinent issues and emerging areas. He noted that the Network was well placed to address them and that the recommendations would form the basis for the development of the Network's 2018-2019 workplan.

E. Closing Plenary Session on the Structure and Future Priorities of the Global Judicial Integrity Network (Day 2, 10 April 2018, 16:15-17:30)

Mr. Dimitri Vlassis, Chief of UNODC's Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, introduced the final session of the event and explained that its purpose was to seek the endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the Global Judicial Integrity Network and the adoption of the final Declaration of this first gathering of the Network.

Mr. Vlassis thanked participants for their valuable comments on the draft Terms of Reference and the Declaration and assured them that UNODC had sought to incorporate all inputs to the extent possible. He explained that the Terms of Reference outlined in a concise manner the Network's mission statement, objectives, participation and organization of work, as well as the role of the Advisory Board and of UNODC as the Secretariat. He also reiterated the opening remarks of Mr. John Brandolino, Director of UNODC's Division for Treaty Affairs, that the intention was not to create a new body or organization, but to provide a platform of judges and for judges to share good practices, learn from and support each other and join forces in the development of new practical tools on strengthening integrity and preventing corruption in the justice system.



In the ensuing discussion, one participant suggested that, in the future, the Network participants could develop a more democratic process for the selection of the Advisory Board members. Mr. Vlassis explained that the current procedure (i.e. identification and proposal of the Advisory Board members by UNODC as the Secretariat) was used to ‘get the ball rolling’ and nothing prevented the Network participants from developing different selection procedures in the future. Several participants took the floor to reemphasize their appreciation for the launch of the Global Judicial Integrity Network and to express their readiness to participate and contribute to its upcoming activities.

Subsequently, participants endorsed the Terms of Reference of the Network. The final text of the Terms of Reference can be found on and downloaded from the website of the Network (<https://www.unodc.org/ji/en/restricted/network-launch.html>) in all six official United Nations languages.

Mr. Vlassis then introduced the ten new members of the Advisory Board. He explained that the Advisory Board would assist in the identification of priority challenges and emerging issues in judicial integrity and would guide the development of the workplan of the Network based on the priorities identified in particular during this first meeting of the Network. He noted that the first set of members had been identified by the Secretariat based on their active engagement in advancing judicial integrity within their countries, regions and at the global level and would serve on the board for the next two years. He explained that UNODC had tried to ensure that the Board be regionally balanced in its composition, reflect the diversity of legal traditions and seek gender parity. The Advisory Board members are the following:

1. **Honourable Adrian Saunders.** He is a Justice of the Caribbean Court of Justice and was elected the next president of the Court, which takes effect in July 2018. He is also Chairman of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers, and a former Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.
2. **Honourable Duro Sessa.** He is the president of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia, and, at the same time, he holds the presidency of the Consultative Council of European Judges. He is a judge in the Supreme Court's civil division and a former president of the Croatian Association of Judges. Before being appointed a Supreme Court judge, he was a judge at the Zagreb County Court and the president of the Zagreb Municipal Court.
3. **Honourable Masood Bin Muhammad Alameri.** He is the President of the Court of Cassation and the Supreme Judicial Council of the State of Qatar since 2008. He has an extensive previous professional experience as a judge, having joined the judiciary in 1983.
4. **Honourable Maria Thereza Moura.** She is currently Justice of the Superior Court of Justice of Brazil and Director-General of the Brazilian National Magistrates School.
5. **Honourable Zainun Ali.** She is a Judge of the Federal Court of Malaysia. For the past 40 years she



has held various positions in the legal and judicial service. Most notably, she has worked as a Judicial Commissioner of the High Court of Malaysia, High Court Judge and Court of Appeal Judge.

6. **Honourable Kashim Zannah.** He is Chief Judge of the High Court of Justice of Borno State in Nigeria. He was first appointed to the High Court in 1997 and was elevated to Chief Judge in 2006.
7. **Doctor Nihal Jayawickrama.** He acts as the Coordinator of the Judicial Integrity Group. In Sri Lanka, he served as Attorney General, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, and on the Judicial Services Board. He was a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Hong Kong, the Ariel F. Sallows Professor of Human Rights at the University of Saskatchewan and Executive Director of Transparency International in Berlin.
8. **Honourable José Igreja Matos.** He is Judge at the Court of Appeal of Porto in Portugal. He has been President of the European Association of Judges since October 2016 and is also Vice President of the International Association of Judges since 2012. He has served in the Portuguese judiciary since 1989.
9. **Honourable Lynne Leitch.** She is the representative of the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association and acts as the Chair of the Association's Gender Section. She is a Justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in Canada. She is also a former President of the Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association, and remains involved with the organization as Chair of the Compensation Committee.
10. **Honourable Diego Garcia-Sayán.** He acts as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. He was a judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and was elected Vice-President of the Court from 2008 to 2009 and President of the Court for two consecutive terms. He previously served as Peru's Minister of Justice and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Honourable Masood Bin Muhammad Alameri, President of the Court of Cassation and the Supreme Judicial Council of the State of Qatar, requested the floor to deliver brief remarks. He emphasized the importance of fair, independent and transparent judicial systems and recalled the UN Convention against Corruption and the Doha Declaration in this regard. He acknowledged the existence of various emerging challenges for judges, and underscored that the new Network would help to address them from a global point of view. He acknowledged that the launch of the Network represented a historic event and offered to host the second meeting of the Network in Qatar in 2019.

Mr. Vlassis concluded the event by presenting the draft Declaration for adoption. A number of additional comments were received, and the final Declaration was adopted by acclamation subject to the understanding



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that the Secretariat would reflect the comments as agreed. After adoption of the Declaration, one jurisdiction expressed its reservation concerning the mention of the support of the State of Qatar to the Global Judicial Integrity Network as potentially raising questions concerning the independence of the Network. It was agreed to duly reflect this comment in the present report.

Mr. Vlassis congratulated the participants on the launch of the Global Judicial Integrity Network. He expressed his satisfaction that the meeting had given consideration to numerous crucial issues and had shown the need to come together and help one another in addressing them. He noted that UNODC would continue to encourage other judiciaries and stakeholders to join the Network. He also congratulated the participants on the adoption of the Terms of Reference and the Declaration on Judicial Integrity and appreciated the fruitful and constructive spirit of the discussions. He also thanked all breakout session organizers and the panellists for their inspiration and thought-provoking and enriching ideas. With that, Mr. Vlassis closed the meeting.