Communications related to the work of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption received by the Secretary General of the United Nations

The Secretariat wishes to bring to the attention of the Conference of the States Parties communications related to its ongoing work addressed to the Secretary General of the United Nations.
Implementation Review of the UN Convention against Corruption

Dear Secretary-General,

At the invitation of the International Chamber of Commerce, Transparency International, the United Nations Global Compact, and the World Economic Forum Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI), we are writing to express our strong support for the UN Convention against Corruption and to call for action to establish an implementation review mechanism at the Conference of States Parties to be held in Doha in November 2009.

As business leaders we recognize the risks and damage caused by corruption. Therefore our companies conduct rigorous anti-corruption programs. We have seen how widespread corruption in countries discourages investment and makes it difficult for companies to compete on an ethical basis.

The adoption of the UN Convention in December 2003 was an important breakthrough because it recognized that a global framework was needed to combat global corruption. It is very encouraging that the Convention has been signed by 140 countries and ratified by 136. However, its success will remain uncertain until an effective implementation review mechanism is established. Experience with other anti-corruption conventions demonstrates that review of implementation is crucial.

In our view, the UN Convention is an essential instrument in the fight against corruption because it covers countries all over the world, emerging as well as developed; because it addresses all types of corrupt practices, in both the public and the private sector; and because it contains preventive measures, as well as law enforcement provisions. The Convention holds the promise of curbing corruption and creating a level playing field for all participants in the global economy.

The UN Convention is a complex legal instrument and requires careful follow-up of its implementation to achieve its objectives. Political will and determined action by governments are necessary to put into place effective prevention and enforcement measures, as well as new processes for international cooperation. Hoping that the Convention’s provisions will work, without follow-up reviews, would be a dangerous mistake.

Especially now, in a period of deep financial and economic turmoil, an effective implementation review mechanism is essential. The economic crisis will inevitably place severe strains on worldwide competition, threatening an erosion of ethical standards that will be hard to reverse.

In December 2006 the parties to the Convention agreed that “effective and efficient review of the implementation of the Convention (...) is of paramount importance and urgent.” We consider it essential that the Doha Conference in November 2009 takes action to establish an effective review mechanism. Further delay would damage the credibility of the Convention and its ability to build momentum in overcoming corruption.

We recognize that it is up to the governments to decide how the review mechanism should be organized. However, we have a strong interest in seeing that the mechanism will be credible and effective and offer the following suggestions. First, the process should have adequate and dependable long-term funding. Second, it should include country visits with peer reviewers from other countries. Third, the process should function transparently, with inputs from the private sector and other stakeholders, and with published reports.

The adoption of a rigorous implementation review mechanism will send a very positive message to international business. Our companies will work actively to make the Convention succeed. A large number of corporate, industry sector and global business initiatives against corruption have already been launched and bear witness to our determination to improve corporate ethics. Such efforts will be greatly strengthened by working under the umbrella of an effective UN Convention.

We kindly request that you transmit this letter to all States Parties in advance of the Doha meeting.

Yours sincerely,
ANNEX I

Signatories of CEO Letter on UN Convention against Corruption
As of 9 November 2009 (Total: 95)

Miguel Teixeira de Abreu
Managing Partner
Abreu Advogados
Portugal

Fernando Chico Pardo
CEO
ASUR - Grupo Aeropuertuario del Sureste, S.A. de C.V.
Mexico

Kenan Tur
Chief Executive Officer
Business Keeper AG
Germany

Mujeeb Uddin
General Secretary
Accident Welfare Foundation
Pakistan

Steven Munnoch
Managing Director
Avon Metals Ltd
United Kingdom

Mr. Jacob P. Maroga
CEO
Eskom
South Africa

Marc Rene Schmitt
Managing Director
Adecco Recruitment Services Pty Ltd
South Africa

Jhale Hajiyeva
Executive Director
Micro-finance Association
Azerbaijan

Luiz Ganem Rubiao
CEO
Chemtech Servicos de Engenharia e Software Ltda
Brazil

Timothy Spicer
CEO
Aegis Defence Services Limited
United Kingdom

Juergen Hambrecht
Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors
BASF AG
Germany

Nick Holland
CEO
Gold Fields Limited
South Africa

Saidi Asenge J.M.V.
CEO
African Foundation Farmapu-Inter & Cecotrap-Rcogl
Rwanda

Rudolf Häfeli
CEO
BDO Visura
Switzerland

Nawapon Sungwienwong
CEO & Managing Director
Cool House
Thailand

Cynthia Carroll
CEO
Anglo American plc
United Kingdom

Peter Schmutz
Chief Executive Officer
Bedag Informatik AG
Switzerland

Hansueli Loosli
Chief Executive Officer
Coop
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Mark Cutifani
CEO
AngloGold Ashanti Company
South Africa

Frank J Chapman
Chief Executive
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United Kingdom

Alex de Geus
CEO
CPT AG
Switzerland

Lakshmi Mittal
CEO
ArcelorMittal
Luxembourg

Marius Kloppers
Chief Executive Officer
BHP Billiton
Australia

Gareth Penny
Managing Director
De Beers
South Africa

Anne Lauvergeon
Chair of the Executive Board
Areva
France

S. N. Agarwal
Chairman
Bhoruka Power Corporation Ltd.
India

Grant Gelink
CEO
Deloitte South Africa
South Africa

D. Sanya Juliuson
Executive Vice President
Association of Certified Commercial Diplomats
United Kingdom

Tony Hayward
Chief Executive Officer
BP Plc
United Kingdom

Jim Quigley
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Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
United States of America
Armando Nieto Ranero
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Divina Pastora Mutualidad de
Prevision Social a Prima Fija
Spain

John Jacob Rieck Jr.
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Doar Rieck Kaley & Mack
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CEO
EADS
France

Olivier Jaeggi
President and Managing Partner
Ecofact AG
Switzerland

Simon Crane
CEO
Edinburgh International
United Kingdom

Graziella Zanoletti
CIO and President
Elite Rent-a-Car
Switzerland

Paolo Scaroni
CEO
ENI
Italy

Hazel Henderson
Founder
Ethical Markets Media
United States of America

Martin KASEKENDE
Chairman
Federation of Uganda Employers
Uganda

Alan L. Boeckmann
Chairman of the Board and CEO
Fluor Corporation
United States of America

Tadahito Yamamoto
President and Representative Director
Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.
Japan

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FH Consultoria Empresarial LTDA
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Sizwe Nxasana
CEO
FirstRand
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Sati Pandey
Founder & Chief Executive
Global Synergetic Foundation
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Gérard Mestrallet
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GDF Suez
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Jeffrey Immelt
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General Electric Company
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David Fitzpatrick
Chief Executive
Hertfordshire Community Foundation
United Kingdom

Anders Dahlvig
CEO and President
IKEA Group
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S. Gopalakrishnan
CEO and Managing Director
Infosys Technologies Ltd.
India

ASAMA EXCEL
President
IVISSION INTERNATIONAL
Cameroon

Manuel Garcia Vicente
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Izanet Global Services S.L.
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Jilanda SecureSmart
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India

Do Soo Jang
President & CEO
Korea South-East Power Co.
Korea, Republic of

Victor Fung
ICC Chairman & Chairman of Li and Fung Group
Hong-Kong, China

Jubril Tinubu
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Oando Plc
Nigeria

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Managing Director
Lantrade Global Supplies Ltd
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Julio Viedma
President
Link Cambios
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President & CEO
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Newmont Mining Corporation
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Daniel Vasella  
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Henrik Poulsen  
Managing Director  
Oriental Trading  
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Johannes Walter  
Managing Director  
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Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican  
President and CEO  
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Mavi Isibor  
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Poise Nigeria Limited  
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Progressive Asset Management  
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Public Association 'Blago'  
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Jan du Plessis  
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Rio Tinto Plc  
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MD/CEO  
Acorn Petroleum Plc  
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Jeroen van der Veer  
CEO  
Royal Dutch Shell plc  
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SAP AG  
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CEO & Managing Director  
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Sasol Ltd.  
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Chris Kirk  
Chief Executive Officer  
SGS SA  
Switzerland

Peter Loescher  
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Siemens AG  
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Tianwen Huang  
CEO  
Sinosteel Corporation  
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Christian Jourquin  
CEO  
Solvay  
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Francisco Diaz  
CEO  
Organización Corona S.A.  
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Joyce Aryee  
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Ghana Chamber of Mines  

Stephen Green  
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Jamshed J Irani  
Director  
Tata Sons  
India

Peter Bakker  
Chairman and CEO  
TNT N.V.  
Netherlands

Tjaart van der Walt  
Managing Director / CEO  
TruTeq Wireless (Pty) LTD  
South Africa

Gail Klintworth  
Chairman  
Unilever South Africa Pty Ltd  
South Africa

Napoleon Birch  
Founder - Executive Director  
VillageDirect.org  
USA

Tomaslov Bogdanic  
President  
World Youth Bank Network  
Croatia

James J. Schiro  
CEO  
Zurich Financial Group  
Switzerland
H.E. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Headquarters Secretariat
46th Str. & 1st Ave.
New York, NY, 10017

6th November 2009

Dear Secretary General

As faith leaders in our respective jurisdictions, we are writing to express our strong support for the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). We call for urgent action on the agreement of a review mechanism for the Convention, for immediate adoption at the Conference of the State Parties to be held in Doha next week.

UNCAC’s global reach is unprecedented. Its strength lies in the balance it achieves between actions needed within a state and those required between states. The Convention is rightly ambitious in its aims and, as such, expectations are high as to its potential to reduce corruption both nationally and internationally.

**Corruption is condemned by all religions.** As faith leaders we believe there is a moral imperative to tackle corruption. Our religious teachings commit us to the pursuit of justice and to stand with those who are economically disempowered and socially marginalised. Corruption undermines the principles of justice and equality, eroding value systems, social cohesion and trust.

Corruption and poverty mutually reinforce injustice. Corruption undermines equitable economic growth and sustainable development. The diversion of public funds, loss of investment and the reduction in tax revenues hits the poorest and most vulnerable hardest. Put simply corruption is at the heart of people’s experience of poverty. For poor communities, corrupt practices constitute an insurmountable barrier to quality education, affordable healthcare and decent livelihoods. Corruption steals opportunity and hope.

The success of UNCAC in reducing corruption will hinge on the commitment of State Parties to fully implement its provisions and the establishment of an effective review mechanism to monitor implementation. **In our view, two elements essential for a robust and credible review mechanism are transparency and the participation of civil society.**

Firstly, transparency via the publication of reports and recommendations is vital to ensure that the process is fair and effective. This will also help build support amongst citizens for country efforts to counter corruption. It is an opportunity to celebrate achievements as well as acknowledging where increased efforts are needed in countering corruption. Transparency can strengthen the relationship between governments and their citizens. Honesty and integrity are the moral values that underpin any attempts to tackle corrupt practices and a commitment...
to a transparent review mechanism is testimony to political leadership that is mature and accountable.

Secondly, civil society can positively contribute to the implementation of the Convention and the review process. Civil society organisations, including faith groups, provide an important link to communities experiencing poverty; the review mechanism must make room for the voices of men and women living in poverty. Indeed, if those most affected by corruption are not accorded space to feed in to the review, it will be impossible to accurately measure UNCAC’s effectiveness.

A review mechanism that is founded upon the principles of transparency and civil society participation will send a clear signal to poor communities that to those they have entrusted power and responsibility are ready and willing to end the scourge of corruption for the benefit of all.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Corazon C. Abogan
Minister, Secretariat Ecumenical Bishops’ Forum, Philippines

Dr. Sushant Agrawal
Director, Church’s Auxiliary for Social Action, India

Dr. Manazir Ahsan
Islamic Foundation

Dr. Salim Al-Awa
Secretary General of the International Union for Muslim Scholars

Dr. Mustafa Ali
Secretary General, African Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace

Most Rev. Dr. Yvon Ambroise
President, Caritas Asia

D. Mauricio Andrade
Primate of Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil (IEAB)

Rt. Rev. John Arnold
Auxiliary Bishop in Westminster, UK

David Atwood
Director, Quakers United Nations Office

The Rev. Tae-Jin Bae
General Secretary, The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

Bishop Warlito P. Baldomero
Dean, Asia Pacific Christian College & Seminary

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Chairman, Muslim Charities Forum

Revd. Luiz Alberto Barbosa
General Secretary, CONIC, National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil

Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari
Secretary General, Muslim Council of Britain

Sr. Rosario B. Battung, Religious of the Good Shepherd
Good Shepherd Sisters – Women, Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation and Ecumenical Bishops Forum Secretariat, Philippines

John Beckett
National Coordinator, Micah Challenge Australia

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Lay Minister of the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil (IEAB)

Dr. Bennet Benjamin
CSI Diaconal Ministry, Church of South India

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Executive Secretary, Ecumenical Bishops Forum, Philippines
Rt. Rev Terence Brain
Bishop of Salford, UK

Venerable Bup-Jang (Toe-Hyu)
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Ecumenical Bishops’ Forum,
Philippines

Lord Carey
103rd Archbishop of Canterbury, Vice
President Tearfund

Reverend Arthur P. Cavalcante
Pastor of Santíssima Trindade
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Ely Esmer Barreto Cesar
Pastor of the Methodist Church

Dilip Chirmuley AM, JP
Australian Hindu Community

Steve Clifford
General Director, Evangelical Alliance

Most Reverend Peter J Connors
Catholic Bishop of Ballarat
Victoria, Australia

Tim Costello
Chief Executive, World Vision
Australia

Malcolm M Deboo
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Funds of Europe (Incorporated)
Rt. Rev Peter Doyle
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Uniting Church in Australia

Rev Rod Dyson
Moderator, Synod of South Australia
Uniting Church in Australia

Bishop Ephraim S. Fajutagana
Iglesia Filipina Independiente

Andre Luiz Videira de Figueiredo
Koinonia

Jose Adriano Filho
Koinonia

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Pastor of Presbyterian Church, Brazil

Paulo Roberto Garcia
Pastor of the Methodist Church

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Bishop Emeritus, United Church of
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 Rt. Rev Crispian Hollis
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Bishop Ivan Ibrahims
Presiding Bishop of the Methodist
Church of Southern Africa

Bishop Deogracias Ifiúquez
Co-Chairperson Ecumenical Bishops’
Forum, Philippines
Bishop of Caloocan (Roman Catholic)

Jorge Atilio Iulianelli
Lay and theologian of Roman
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Rev. Dr. Tolbert Thomas Jallah, Jr.
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John Jeffries
National Director, CBM Australia

Rev. Dr Andre Karamaga,
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Presbyterian Church in the Republic
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Chairperson, Transparency
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The Rev. Hyun-Bae Kim
Moderator, The Presbyterian Church
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Bishop John Kirby
Bishop of Clonfert, Ireland
Chair of Trocaire,

Archbishop Cyprian Kizito of
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Caritas Africa

Lesley-Anne Knight
Secretary General, Caritas
Internationalis

Archbishop Emmanuel Kolini
Anglican Province of Rwanda

Cibele Kuss
Pastor of Lutheran Church (IECLB)

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Chair of Department of International
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Rev Alistair Macrae
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Archbishop of Wales

Rabbi Julia Neuberger
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Archdeacon for Christian Unity and
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Sameh Ramadan  
Managing Director, Al Muntada

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Bishop of Hallam, Chair ofCAFOD

Rt Rev Edwin Regan  
Bishop of Wrexham, UK

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Bishop Francisco Joao Silota  
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Second Vice President of The  
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Djalma Torres  
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Rajyashri S. Waghray  
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Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg  
Senior Rabbi of the Assembly of Masorti Synagogues