



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

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## Sixth session

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 2-6 November 2015

Agenda item 4

## Prevention

### Draft report

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### Addendum

## III. Prevention

1. At its 4th meeting, on 3 November 2015, the Conference considered agenda item 4, entitled "Prevention".
2. The discussion was chaired by Sadiq Marafi (Kuwait) and Friedrich Däuble (Germany), Vice-Presidents of the Conference. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Marafi recalled the importance of chapter II of the Convention, on the prevention of corruption. He underlined the efforts of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, which had addressed the topics of mandates of anti-corruption bodies, measures to promote transparency in the funding of political parties, measures to prevent money-laundering, and public procurement in its meetings in 2014 and 2015, in accordance with its multi-year workplan.
3. A representative of the Secretariat updated the Conference on progress made in the implementation of resolution 5/4, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption", and resolution 5/6, entitled "Private sector". She provided information on the technical assistance initiatives of UNODC at the national, regional and global levels to support States parties in the prevention of corruption, including support for the development or revision of national anti-corruption strategies, capacity-building for anti-corruption bodies and other practitioners, the promotion of mechanisms to support asset declarations and prevent conflicts of interest, targeted legislative assistance, support for the strengthening of integrity in the justice sector and the promotion of anti-corruption education, including through the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative. She announced the launch by UNODC of new knowledge tools on anti-corruption



strategies and the protection of reporting persons and highlighted the support given by UNODC to civil society and efforts to raise public awareness of corruption and promote the role of the private sector in preventing corruption.

4. Many speakers reported on their activities in relation to the implementation of resolution 5/4 and the prevention of corruption, including in relation to the work of anti-corruption bodies and the development and implementation of anti-corruption strategies and other measures aimed at increasing integrity, transparency and accountability in the public sector. In that regard, some speakers noted efforts to strengthen the integrity of the public sector through the digitization of public records, the standardization of data collection and the development and implementation of codes of conduct.

5. Some speakers emphasized the importance of anti-corruption awareness-raising and education, particularly among young people, in creating a culture of zero tolerance towards corruption and described measures to strengthen anti-corruption educational curricula and outreach measures, such as applications for smart phones and the use of social media.

6. Several speakers reported on the establishment or strengthening of measures of oversight and accountability, including through asset declaration and audit mechanisms, and other mechanisms to prevent illicit enrichment, money-laundering and corruption in public procurement. Speakers emphasized that measures taken to strengthen public participation and access to information, as well as the protection of whistle-blowers and reporting persons, were critical in that regard. Speakers also noted the connection between efforts to prevent corruption and the provision of mutual legal assistance and promotion of international cooperation.

7. The role of the private sector in preventing corruption was underlined, including in relation to measures to promote integrity in the private sector and the establishment of standards of corporate governance, audit standards and compliance measures. Several speakers emphasized the importance of undertaking proper corruption risk assessments to identify and manage corruption risks. One speaker described the development of “integrity pacts” with national authorities. Speakers stressed the importance of preventing corruption and promoting objectivity, transparency and competition in public procurement to effectively manage corruption risks, including through sharing information on debarred companies or using electronic procurement systems.

8. Speakers noted their support to the work of UNODC in the prevention of corruption, including in relation to the UNODC regional anti-corruption advisers and anti-corruption education. Some speakers called for the provision of stable and secure funding to UNODC so that the Office could continue to provide technical assistance upon request. Some speakers requested technical assistance in strengthening measures to prevent corruption, including in relation to anti-corruption education, asset declaration systems and the prevention of money-laundering.

9. In addition, several speakers emphasized the impact of the Implementation Review Mechanism and its self-assessment process in the identification of achievements and recommendations to strengthen measures to prevent and counter corruption, and welcomed the forthcoming second cycle of the review process,

during which the implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures), would be reviewed.

10. A representative of the Ethics Office of the Secretariat discussed how the Office supported the adherence by United Nations staff members to established codes and standards of professional conduct, including the avoidance of conflicts of interest through the financial disclosure programme and the provision of confidential advice and guidance. A representative of the International Anti-Corruption Academy described the educational and training services provided to practitioners to prevent corruption in their communities.

11. A representative of the Institute for Global Financial Integrity addressed the issue of transparency of beneficial ownership of corporations, and encouraged States parties to collect such information and make it available to law enforcement agencies upon request. A representative of Transparency International discussed the participation of civil society in the Conference and called for the recognition of grand corruption as a serious crime requiring specific laws and penalties. A representative of the UNCAC Coalition emphasized the need to follow up on the reports that formed part of the Implementation Review Mechanism and thereby strengthen future implementation of the Convention and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16.

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