



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

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Report on the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held in Vienna from 21 to 23 August 2017

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 3/2, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption decided to establish an interim open-ended intergovernmental working group to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption.
2. In that resolution, the Conference decided that the Working Group should perform the following functions:
 - (a) Assist the Conference in developing and accumulating knowledge in the area of prevention of corruption;
 - (b) Facilitate the exchange of information and experience among States on preventive measures and practices;
 - (c) Facilitate the collection, dissemination and promotion of best practices in corruption prevention;
 - (d) Assist the Conference in encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption.
3. In its resolution 6/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, the Conference welcomed the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, in particular the substantive discussions in relation to the different provisions of chapter II of the Convention. The Conference noted with appreciation the achievements of the Working Group in facilitating the sharing of information between States parties on their initiatives and good practices, and encouraged States parties to continue to share with the Secretariat new and updated information and good practices on their implementation of that chapter.
4. In the same resolution, the Conference welcomed the commitment made and efforts undertaken by States parties to provide information on good practices in preventing corruption that is gathered, systematized and disseminated by the Secretariat in the performance of its functions as an international observatory, and requested States parties to continue sharing information. The Conference also requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue its work as an observatory, including by updating the thematic website of the Working Group with relevant information.



5. In its resolution 6/1, entitled “Continuation of the review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, the Conference requested the Secretariat to structure the provisional agendas of the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference in such a way as to avoid the duplication of discussions, while respecting their mandates. Consistent with these resolutions, and in accordance with the conclusions of the Working Group at its seventh intersessional meeting, held in Vienna from 22 to 24 August 2016, the Working Group, at its eighth meeting, focused its attention on the following topics:

(a) Education in schools and universities on anti-corruption efforts (art. 13, para. 1 (c), of the United Nations Convention against Corruption);

(b) Integrity in criminal justice institutions (arts. 7, 8 and 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption).

II. Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Working Group acknowledged the progress that had been made in the implementation of Conference resolution 6/6 and underlined the need to maintain those efforts.

7. The Working Group recommended that the Conference of the States Parties, at its seventh session, should consider deciding that the Working Group should continue its work and hold two meetings before the eighth session of the Conference.

8. The Working Group also recommended that the Conference of the States Parties adopt a multi-year workplan for the Working Group, while recognizing that there would be room within the Working Group’s agenda to add topics of discussion or to amend those being suggested. More specifically, the Working Group recommended to the Conference that the Group’s multi-year workplan include as the topic for 2018 the use and effectiveness of asset declaration systems and conflicts of interest (art. 7, para. 4; and art. 8, para. 5) and as the topic for 2019 lessons learned on the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies (art. 5). The above-mentioned flexibility should take into account the goal of maximizing the cross-fertilization of the discussions held by the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption and the Implementation Review Group.

9. The Working Group welcomed the work of the Secretariat in performing the functions of an international observatory gathering information on good practices in preventing corruption and making it available online on the thematic web page of the Working Group, and requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts to gather information on good practices by States on anti-corruption initiatives.

10. The Working Group also urged States parties to continue using the information available online on the thematic web page of the Working Group on policies, practices and measures implemented to prevent corruption, including how they strengthen the integrity of criminal justice institutions and anti-corruption education. Moreover, the Working Group encouraged States parties to continue sharing information on their efforts to prevent corruption with the Secretariat, to be published on the thematic web pages of the Working Group.

11. The Working Group acknowledged the progress that had been made by States parties in strengthening integrity and addressing risks of corruption in criminal justice institutions and underlined the need to maintain these efforts and to assist States parties in overcoming related difficulties.

12. The Working Group recommended that States parties should consider taking appropriate legislative, administrative and capacity-building measures to promote cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among relevant criminal justice institutions in order to prevent corruption more efficiently and effectively.

13. The Working Group acknowledged the progress that had been made by the States parties in promoting awareness-raising measures and education throughout all

sectors of society, and underlined the importance of paying special attention to working with young people and children as part of a strategy to prevent corruption.

14. The Working Group welcomed the Secretariat's presentation highlighting the demonstrated success and engagement of States parties in the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative and the Education for Justice initiative, and underlined the importance of the continuous engagement of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in those projects, including by hosting dedicated websites and facilitating exchanges between academics and teachers on anti-corruption education in universities and schools.

15. The Working Group recognized the efforts of the Secretariat in supporting States parties in implementing the Convention, and requested UNODC to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, in coordination with bilateral and multilateral technical assistance providers, particularly in developing countries.

16. The Working Group underlined the urgency of providing sufficient extrabudgetary resources to UNODC to provide such technical assistance, and called upon States parties and other donors to reconfirm their commitment to the prevention of corruption, for example, by providing soft-earmarked and multi-year financial contributions.

III. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

17. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held its eighth meeting in Vienna from 21 to 23 August 2017. The meetings of the Working Group were chaired by the President of the Conference of the States Parties, Alexander Konovalov (Russian Federation), and Vice-President Andrés Lamoliatte Vargas (Chile).

18. In opening the meeting, the President recalled Conference resolutions 3/2, 6/1, and 6/6. He highlighted the importance of the meeting's interactive discussions and sharing of experiences in the prevention of corruption and introduced the thematic discussions on education in schools and universities on anti-corruption efforts and integrity in criminal justice institutions.

19. The Secretariat underscored the importance of a comprehensive approach to the fight against corruption, emphasizing that the provisions of chapter II are essential to promoting transparency, integrity, good governance and education. It was noted that the Working Group, since its first meeting in 2010, had provided States with the opportunity to share good practices, lessons learned and expertise. The Secretariat further noted that the knowledge gathered through the Working Group had proved to be invaluable to national experts in both reviewing their own countries' implementation of the Convention and serving as reviewing experts for their peers in the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

20. The Secretariat also introduced the documents of the session. The background papers on education in schools and universities on anti-corruption efforts (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2017/2/Rev.1) and on integrity in criminal justice institutions (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2017/3) had been prepared on the basis of the responses submitted by States following a request by the Secretariat for information. Those reports reflected the information received for those documents at, respectively, 26 May and 29 May 2017, from 34 States. An additional 19 submissions were received after those dates. With the agreement of those States concerned, all but one of the submissions received had been made available on both the official website for this meeting of the group¹ and on the thematic website² of the Working Group.

¹ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/session8.html.

² www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/thematic-compilation-prevention.html.

21. The representative of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of African States to fight corruption and illicit financial flows as they were impediments to development, economic growth and the achievement of the socioeconomic well-being of citizens, particularly citizens of developing countries. She noted that technical assistance, to be provided upon request and based on specific needs of recipient States, was key for the effective implementation of the Convention. She highlighted the importance of implementing the provisions of chapter II of the Convention and called for strengthened cooperation among governmental entities and relevant stakeholders at the national level, particularly in the areas of awareness-raising, education, information-sharing and the promotion of best practices in the prevention of corruption. She reiterated the full support of the Group of African States for the Working Group, noting the Working Group's role in advising and assisting the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption.

22. The representative of the European Union noted that corruption undermined the rule of law and the fundamental values on which societies were based. He further highlighted that the threat of corruption was recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably in its Goal 16. The speaker reported that the European Union and its members had put in place legislation, policies and measures to prevent corruption and protect whistle-blowers.

23. The representative of Japan announced that Japan had ratified the Convention on 11 July 2017, and renewed his Government's commitment to contributing to the anti-corruption efforts of the international community.

24. Many speakers underlined the negative impact of corruption on economic growth, development and good governance and thus emphasized the importance of strengthening efforts to prevent corruption. Speakers noted the important role of the Working Group in facilitating information-sharing and the exchange of good practices. Some speakers expressed appreciation for the technical assistance provided by UNODC and other assistance providers. Further assistance was requested to support States to effectively implement the provisions of the Convention.

25. Many speakers underlined how their participation in the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention facilitated the development of national policy, legislative and institutional frameworks and strengthened institutional coordination mechanisms to implement the Convention.

26. Speakers shared their national experience with regard to the topics discussed by the Working Group. Speakers highlighted the key role of education and awareness-raising in effectively preventing corruption. Countries' efforts to integrate the values of integrity, transparency and accountability in their national educational systems and in training for the civil service were emphasized. Speakers also noted the importance of public participation, as well as the engagement of all relevant stakeholders to support educational and awareness-raising measures. Speakers also noted the need for increasing international cooperation to work on implementing the principles of good governance and transparency in educational institutions.

27. Some speakers described their national efforts in promoting integrity in criminal justice institutions, underlining the role of codes of conduct, training on ethics and effective enforcement. Many speakers reported that their countries had established mandatory asset declaration systems for the judiciary.

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

28. On 21 August, the Working Group adopted the following agenda:

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Implementation of Conference resolution 6/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” and of the recommendations agreed upon by the Working Group at its meeting held in August 2016:
 - (a) Good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption:
 - (i) Education in schools and universities on anti-corruption efforts (art. 13, para. 1 (c), of the United Nations Convention against Corruption);
 - (ii) Integrity in criminal justice institutions (arts. 7, 8 and 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption);
 - (b) Other recommendations.
3. Future priorities.
4. Adoption of the report.

C. Attendance

29. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting of the Working Group: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

30. The European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Convention, was represented at the session.

31. The following Secretariat unit and programme were represented by observers: UNODC and United Nations Development Programme.

32. The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, an institute of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, was represented by an observer.

33. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented by observers: Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Council of Europe, Group of States against Corruption, International Anti-Corruption Academy, International Criminal Police Organization, Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies and World Customs Organization.

IV. Implementation of Conference resolution 6/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, and of the recommendations agreed upon by the Working Group at its meeting held in August 2016

A. Good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption

1. Education in schools and universities on anti-corruption efforts (art. 13, para. 1 (c), of the United Nations Convention against Corruption)

34. The Chair introduced the substantive discussion on the item, in relation to which the secretariat had prepared a background paper (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2017/2/Rev.1). The secretariat noted with appreciation the valuable information received from States parties, which formed the basis of the background paper.

35. The secretariat noted that numerous States had reported on anti-corruption education initiatives at all levels of education and highlighted that education was an important tool for preventing corruption and an essential part of anti-corruption strategies. The submissions from States stressed that anti-corruption education went beyond the transfer of knowledge and aimed to strengthen core values and encourage critical thinking and the active participation of youth.

36. The secretariat highlighted that while the subject of corruption was sometimes explicitly included in curricula and textbooks at the primary and secondary levels, it was more often taught as part of ethics education, citizenship studies or other value-based programmes. Many anti-corruption educational activities were extracurricular in nature and included competitions, fairs and exhibitions. States also referred to the use of interactive learning approaches and child-friendly tools such as comics and colouring books.

37. At the university level, the secretariat observed a growing interest in specialized anti-corruption programmes. States also reported that anti-corruption courses were increasingly included in many degree programmes, including law, economics, business, finance, public administration, social science, political science, medicine, technology, and science. Issues of corruption were also addressed in ethics and professional responsibility courses.

38. A panellist from Malaysia stressed that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission engaged in extensive educational efforts. In primary and secondary schools, the Commission had led a campaign called “Anti-Corruption Warriors”, involving students, teachers and parents, and was in the process of preparing support tools for teachers. At the university level, the Commission had established corruption prevention secretariats in over 100 higher learning institutions to facilitate anti-corruption education. Student clubs set up by the Malaysia Institute of Integrity also had contributed to enhancing integrity among the student community.

39. A panellist from China provided a presentation on a number of anti-corruption education initiatives carried out in schools and universities by the Government of China. Those initiatives included the development of policy documents on anti-corruption and integrity education, and the inclusion of anti-corruption and integrity elements in different courses such as Chinese literature, history and moral education. The Ministry of Education had also initiated and supported various forms of awareness-raising activities on anti-corruption and integrity in schools and universities.

40. A panellist from Ecuador referred to a number of initiatives through which the Council for Public Participation and Oversight had sought to strengthen transparency and participation in local governments. The transparency brigades were teams of trained university students who had committed to promoting a culture of transparency and anti-corruption in managing local governments. These initiatives in the higher

education system were an important part of Ecuador's strategy to eradicate and prevent corruption.

41. A panellist from the United Arab Emirates summarized his country's efforts to fight against corruption by using scientific materials and organizing awareness-raising programmes in schools and universities. He highlighted that a programme for universities in the field of combating corruption and protecting public funds had been launched. The State Audit Institution had signed a number of agreements with universities in order to attract and train young students and graduates of those institutions and make them qualified to work in the field of anti-corruption.

42. Speakers noted with appreciation the documentation prepared by the secretariat and the presentations of the panellists. Speakers referred to the implementation of article 13, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention, underlined the importance of education for the prevention of corruption, and urged States parties and the secretariat to continue to share good practices in that area.

43. Speakers reported that anti-corruption was a key component of education programmes at all levels of the educational system, from primary school to the university level. One speaker emphasized that educational programmes required long-term commitment to ensure sustainability. In this regard, another speaker noted the practice of using a certain percentage of confiscated assets for funding education initiatives.

44. Some speakers stressed the importance of developing age-appropriate content and formats such as cartoons, comic books, colouring books, movies, summer camps, moot courts, role playing, educational games, integrity clubs, designation of ethics champions, essay and art competitions, posters, paintings and other measures to support teachers in the classroom. The use of social media, online courses and dedicated web portals and television programmes were also highlighted as relevant for education on integrity and anti-corruption. Speakers noted that theatrical performances, museum programmes and other outside-of-school activities were a useful means to reinforce anti-corruption messages.

45. Several speakers stated that anti-corruption education was taught through the teaching of principles and values such as citizenship, efficiency, effectiveness, ethics, integrity, transparency, openness, accountability, social and individual responsibility, honesty, professionalism, voluntarism, respect for others, solidarity and truthfulness. Anti-corruption educational efforts were also associated with frameworks such as human rights education, culture of lawfulness, legal education, civic rights and duties, and political literacy, and that approach was regarded as having been successful in enlisting the support of youth in the fight against corruption.

46. Several speakers also stressed the essential role of education in fostering a culture of lawfulness among citizens in order to achieve corruption-free societies. Speakers noted that in a society permeated by a culture of lawfulness, bribery was recognized as being morally wrong and thus discouraged. One speaker reported on his country's national educational programme to promote a culture of lawfulness.

47. Training, handbooks and manuals for teachers were mentioned as key elements in supporting anti-corruption education. Other relevant stakeholders such as parents, community leaders and civil society actors were also involved in some of the initiatives to increase the outreach and impact of educational programmes.

48. A number of speakers mentioned that specialized anti-corruption agencies were responsible for public education to promote integrity, accountability and transparency in society. Others indicated that in their country the Ministry of Education had the lead in anti-corruption education. Most speakers emphasized that an inter-agency collaborative approach involving all key stakeholders was crucial for the design and implementation of effective and successful educational programmes.

49. Speakers referred to regional and national anti-corruption academies that served as scientific reference points and noted the important role of academics in developing

national anti-corruption strategies and contributing to the Implementation Review Mechanism.

50. Speakers noted that an increasing number of specialized university courses and degrees were being developed, including interdisciplinary courses on anti-corruption, as well as courses on ethics and accountability, prevention of corruption, accounting, auditing and management of public funds, public procurement, and financial management. Expert guest lectures, including from private sector and civil society actors, were one way of delivering these courses. University activities also included conferences and the provision of research grants on corruption-related issues.

51. Speakers highlighted the importance of receiving technical assistance to develop anti-corruption education programmes and mainstream them into the curricula of schools and universities and noted the potential role of UNODC in that regard. Another speaker noted with appreciation the Convention against Corruption Model Academic Course developed by UNODC and stated that it had facilitated the teaching of anti-corruption in various universities.

52. Several speakers noted their countries' efforts to fight corruption within the education system itself, stressing the importance of the good governance of educational institutions and an ethical learning environment in order to instil values such as integrity and accountability in students. Those efforts included workshops targeting education inspectors and supervisors, school principals, teachers and students, as well as the adoption of ethics policies. Speakers also referred to other initiatives such as an ethics network of universities that brought together academics dedicated to promoting integrity and fighting corruption, evaluation surveys on institutional integrity and mechanisms to encourage students to report corruption in schools, including through mobile apps and hotlines.

53. Several speakers further mentioned anti-corruption educational programmes for professionals working in fields that were vulnerable to corruption, such as construction, the civil service, the judiciary, law enforcement, health services and customs authorities, and recommended that these courses should be mandatory and be offered on a periodic basis to ensure zero tolerance towards corruption.

54. The representative of the International Anti-Corruption Academy provided an update on its educational initiatives, including its masters' degrees in anti-corruption studies and in anti-corruption compliance and collective action, as well as its summer academy.

55. The representative of the World Customs Organization introduced its initiatives, including the publication of best practices on integrity in customs, and noted its collaboration with academia under the Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development programme, as well as collaborating with other international organizations.

56. The representative of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law introduced its work on human rights education and stressed the importance of a human rights approach to anti-corruption efforts.

57. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme emphasized that educational initiatives must provide youth with anti-corruption skills and opportunities to engage with relevant professionals and must be institutionalized in order to ensure their sustainability.

2. Integrity in criminal justice institutions (arts. 7, 8 and 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption)

58. The Chair introduced the substantive discussion of the item on integrity in criminal justice institutions, for which the Secretariat had prepared a background paper ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2017/3](#)).

59. The Secretariat thanked States parties for the information they had provided in advance of the meeting in which the importance of measures to ensure integrity in

criminal justice institutions was recognized by all States. Based on those submissions, it was clear that a multifaceted approach to promoting and strengthening integrity in criminal justice institutions was required, which included the following: giving attention to systems of human resources, recruitment and training (art. 7 of the Convention); the development and implementation of codes of conduct, accountability mechanisms and declarations of assets and interests (art. 8 of the Convention); and measures specifically relating to the judiciary and prosecution services (art. 11 of the Convention).

60. A panellist from Qatar gave a presentation on measures taken to strengthen integrity, transparency and accountability in criminal justice institutions, which were integral to the achievement of the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. He referred to the adoption of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, which had led to close cooperation with UNODC to promote judicial integrity at the global level, including through the global judicial integrity network being established. He referred to a national process to develop an integrity framework and identify appropriate indicators to measure progress in promoting integrity and transparency in both the public and private sectors.

61. A panellist from Germany gave a presentation on the importance of judicial integrity and independence. He described the work of the Judicial Integrity Group, comprising high-level judges and justices, to strengthen judicial accountability, integrity and reform without compromising judicial independence. He emphasized that the successful implementation of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct was the joint responsibility of judiciaries as well as States, and constituted a foundation for ethics and integrity programmes for the judiciary. He also described the findings and outcomes from a series of integrity surveys conducted by the Judicial Integrity Group and German development cooperation teams, through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), to identify gaps and recommendations for integrity-building measures. He highlighted the forthcoming launch by UNODC of a global judicial integrity network that would provide a platform for judiciaries and other stakeholders to discuss challenges, share good practices and promote judicial integrity, accountability and independence worldwide.

62. A panellist from Myanmar gave a presentation on recent developments at the national level in strengthening prosecutorial integrity and the adoption of a code of ethics for law officers that was based on the Bangalore Principles. She described efforts in Myanmar to strengthen the rule of law, promote democratization and counter corruption, including by adopting codes of ethics for criminal justice institutions, including for civil servants, law officers and members of the judiciary. She emphasized that the adoption of the code of ethics constituted only the first step, which needed to be followed by training, implementation and monitoring of prosecutors and law officers, and she requested UNODC to provide technical assistance to Myanmar in that regard.

63. A panellist from Pakistan gave a presentation on progress achieved at the national level in the comprehensive strengthening of the integrity of criminal justice institutions. He provided an overview of the measures to strengthen integrity in institutions of the judiciary, police, prisons and prosecution services. He noted the application of anti-corruption laws as they applied to national criminal justice institutions and described the role of the National Accountability Bureau in the oversight and monitoring of potential violations of applicable laws and rules. He described provisions adopted to strengthen integrity in the police service and ensure accountability to the applicable professional standards. With regard to judicial integrity, he noted the establishment of the National Judicial Policymaking Committee, chaired by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, which was responsible for adopting policies to strengthen judicial integrity and increase access to justice, as well

as the Supreme Judicial Council, which maintained the standards of integrity in the judiciary of the country.

64. During the ensuing discussion, speakers emphasized the importance of strengthening integrity and preventing opportunities for corruption throughout criminal justice institutions. Speakers noted the significant role of the Convention, as well as the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism, as a key framework through which States parties could achieve integrity, accountability, credibility and transparency in criminal justice institutions. The interrelationship between attaining criminal justice institutions free of corruption and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was also noted.

65. Several speakers reported on the adoption and implementation of codes of ethics and professional conduct for officials of criminal justice institutions, including judges, prosecutors, police officers and prison officials. It was further noted that it was important to establish a mechanism to ensure enforcement of the established standards and the reporting of violations, which could take place, inter alia, through a formal judicial inspection system. Speakers also noted the need to implement standards and measures to identify, prevent and resolve conflicts of interest, including through regular declarations of assets and interests by officials in criminal justice institutions, and in some cases by family members. Some speakers reported that public service regulations governed recruitment, retention, asset declarations and other administrative matters for officials in criminal justice institutions.

66. Speakers emphasized the importance of ensuring the integrity and independence of the judiciary in order to have an effective justice system in which cases were resolved in an objective and impartial manner free of improper influence or corruption. Speakers described various mechanisms to investigate corruption and misconduct in the judiciary, including through a judicial inspectorate body. Several speakers underlined that accessible reporting mechanisms and adequate whistle-blower protection systems were necessary to encourage internal reporting of corruption cases in the criminal justice sector. Speakers also reported on the availability of various measures or sanctions that could be imposed where violations were found, including reassignment, demotion, suspension or dismissal. Several speakers stressed that their countries had adopted legislation which foresaw severe penalties for the violation of laws by members of the judiciary, a practice which was regarded as successful in deterring corruption.

67. Speakers stressed measures taken to ensure that the recruitment and selection process for judges was objective, transparent and effective, including by establishing an independent body such as a judicial service commission. Speakers described a wide range of standard requirements that must be met for initial appointment of members of the judiciary, as well as the application of objective criteria for promotion or assignment. Several speakers outlined the scope and content of a competitive written examination process for qualification and appointment to the judiciary, in terms of both substantive knowledge and temperament and integrity. In some cases, interviews or public hearings were also required. Some speakers described conditions of service for members of the judiciary, including with regard to remuneration, tenure, retirement and prohibitions against compulsory transfer, which were made accessible to the public by electronic or other means.

68. Training of judges in ethics and integrity was also emphasized, both upon initial appointment and as refresher course training, to be offered by judicial training institutes and anti-corruption academies. Some speakers noted that training programmes for the judiciary were based on the identification of specific training needs and encompassed professional development courses, as well as modules on ethics and integrity.

69. A number of speakers referred to specific requirements in relation to conflicts of interest for the judiciary. Speakers also reported on specific regulations restricting outside activities, including business, commercial and political activities, for members of the judiciary, in order to avoid conflicts of interest. In addition, speakers

referred to the obligation of members of the judiciary to provide declarations of assets and interests and to proactively report potential conflicts of interest. In some cases, it was reported that significant penalties, including criminal sanctions, could be imposed in cases where a member of the judiciary had failed to report a conflict of interest or was untruthful in the declaration of assets and interests. With regard to judicial administration, one speaker noted the importance of an objective case assignment and distribution process, including the use of a computerized system to ensure the randomization of case distribution.

70. Efforts to ensure prosecutorial integrity were also reported by several speakers, including through the establishment of policies to prevent opportunities for corruption. Speakers also stressed the importance of prosecutorial independence in some legal systems to ensure that the prosecution process could take place without outside influences and in an objective manner. Speakers emphasized the need for transparency and access to information about the work of criminal justice institutions, in particular the courts and prosecution services, including through online and electronic platforms. Several speakers noted the value of specialized training programmes for prosecutors on integrity and transparency, including the involvement of other criminal justice stakeholders, when appropriate.

71. Speakers reported on training programmes for the police and other law enforcement agencies to strengthen integrity and professionalism of law enforcement institutions. Speakers also described measures to promote the objective and transparent recruitment of police officers and to strengthen their career development. Some speakers described the activities of specialized bodies to oversee the functioning of the police service, which also had jurisdiction to investigate misconduct and corruption and to impose sanctions, as appropriate. One speaker reported on the declarations of assets and interests by the judicial police, in order to avoid conflicts of interest.

72. One speaker described measures to promote integrity and professionalism in the prison service, including procedures for declaring assets and interests as well as strict prohibitions on relations with detainees, and restrictions on engaging with the media. In addition, the speaker noted the establishment of a hotline for families of detainees to report any violations of professional standards of conduct by the prison service.

73. Further, some speakers reported the adoption and implementation of comprehensive anti-corruption strategies, which were important tools for strengthening measures and policies to promote integrity and enhance accountability throughout the criminal justice sector. Some speakers referred to strategies that were being implemented to reform and strengthen the entire criminal justice system.

74. A representative of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) reported on the process and outcomes of the fourth evaluation cycle, which included the evaluation of measures to promote judicial integrity and prevent conflicts of interest, as well as the compliance procedure to determine the implementation of its recommendations.

B. Other recommendations

75. The Chair introduced the item on the implementation of Conference resolution 6/6, for which the secretariat had prepared an oral update.

76. The secretariat presented an update on the implementation of resolution 6/6, with a focus on information-sharing, new UNODC knowledge tools and national, regional or global initiatives taken by States parties with the support of UNODC.

77. In fulfilment of its role as an international observatory for good practices in the prevention of corruption, the secretariat continued to collect information from States parties on their implementation of chapter II of the Convention and to update the website of the Working Group, including its thematic pages.

78. UNODC provided national-level assistance in 16 countries to anti-corruption bodies on their preventive mandates. Further, UNODC continued its cooperation with the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities and provided support to various regional associations of anti-corruption authorities, in particular in Africa, South-East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The UNODC guide, entitled *National Anti-Corruption Strategies: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation*, had been downloaded over 9,000 times since its launch in November 2015 and had been translated into Arabic, French and Spanish. In addition, UNODC had provided assistance to 20 States parties with the development or revision of national anti-corruption policies and strategies.

79. In regards to the protection of reporting persons, the UNODC *Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons* had been made available in English, French and Spanish and had been downloaded almost 5,000 times since its launch at the last session of the Conference. Four regional conferences or workshop sessions were held on whistle-blower and witness protection, in South-East Asia, West Africa and East Africa and for small island developing States. Legislative drafting assistance on this topic had been provided to four countries.

80. Further, UNODC provided technical assistance and expertise to States parties on the implementation of the Convention through targeted legislative and capacity-building activities at the regional and country levels, including on asset declaration and conflict of interest regulation systems, access to information and corruption in procurement.

81. UNODC also worked with multiple stakeholders on integrity and the prevention of corruption in the criminal justice sector. UNODC launched, with the support of the State of Qatar, its Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration. Under the Global Programme, UNODC held a series of regional meetings involving senior judges to prepare for the launch of the global judicial integrity network. UNODC further created partnerships with international and regional judicial associations and forums to obtain their input and the support of their members for the creation of the Network.

82. Nationally, technical assistance was provided to the judiciaries of nine countries. Additionally, UNODC supported initiatives at the national and regional levels to strengthen integrity and prevent corruption in law enforcement bodies, including in police, customs, border control and prison authorities. UNODC was implementing a project to strengthen integrity in criminal justice institutions in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa and further provided support to identify corruption risks to customs authorities in eight countries. In relation to prisons, UNODC finalized a handbook on anti-corruption measures in prisons, to be launched in the margins of the next session of the Conference, in Vienna in November 2017.

83. UNODC continued to promote the participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, including the private sector, civil society, media and youth, in the prevention of corruption. In order to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations, the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project organized country integrity workshops, on social accountability and citizen engagement, in 12 Pacific region countries. UNODC and the UNCAC Coalition trained 286 civil society representatives from 101 countries to contribute to the implementation of the Convention and the Implementation Review Mechanism.

84. UNODC continued its leading role in the Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) Initiative, which encouraged the teaching and research of corruption-related issues by tertiary education institutions. To date, ACAD had actively involved over 400 universities in its activities and had produced an ACAD “Menu of resources” and a model university course on the Convention against Corruption. The second major education project launched by UNODC was the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration. The E4J initiative was aimed at building a culture of lawfulness among children and youth through the provision of age-appropriate educational materials on a variety of

criminal justice and crime prevention topics, including anti-corruption, integrity and ethics, and the integration of those materials into the curricula of primary, secondary and tertiary education levels.

85. UNODC also engaged in anti-corruption work in areas that had gained increasing recognition in recent years, such as integrity in sports and environmental and wildlife crime, including the development of knowledge products and the delivery of corruption risk assessments and capacity-building.

86. At the country and regional levels, UNODC relied on its network of field-based anti-corruption advisers to address technical assistance needs, and the work carried out by the six regional advisers and three national anti-corruption advisers continued to be instrumental. They worked in close collaboration with experts from UNODC headquarters and the field office network.

87. The technical assistance work of UNODC was enabled through various global projects that were financially supported by various donors. However, due to continuous high demand for technical assistance that was not matched by financial resources, UNODC faced acute challenges in continuing the regional adviser programme, and a number of positions had been discontinued in the past year.

88. Many States reported on their further activities in relation to the implementation of resolution 6/6 and the prevention of corruption during their statements made under the previous agenda items, including in relation to the work of anti-corruption bodies, the development and implementation of anti-corruption strategies and other measures aimed at increasing integrity, transparency and accountability in the public service.

V. Future priorities

89. The Chair introduced the discussion on future priorities and drew the attention to the mandate of the Working Group to advise and assist the Conference.

90. At the seventh meeting, the Working Group had decided to continue to focus on specific substantive topics related to the implementation of chapter II of the Convention, in order to continue to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned and to build knowledge and expertise. The secretariat recalled the substantive topics suggested by the Working Group included measuring corruption, corruption risks and the impact of anti-corruption efforts through scientifically-based indicators; the use and effectiveness of asset declaration systems and conflict of interest regulations to prevent corruption (art. 7, para. 4; and art. 8, para. 5); measures and systems to facilitate reporting by public officials (art. 8, para. 4) and public reporting (art. 13, para. 2); and lessons learned on the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies (art. 5).

91. One speaker congratulated the secretariat for its work in the organization of the meetings of the Working Group and in supporting implementation of resolution 6/6, and suggested that the Working Group recommend to the Conference to include in the multi-year workplan of the Working Group the list of the topics recalled by the secretariat (see para. 90, above).

92. During the adoption of the conclusions and recommendations, there was a brief discussion in the Group as to the means of selecting topics for future consideration by the Working Group. In that context, reference was made to whether there needed to be a link between those topics and a specific provision of the Convention.

VI. Adoption of the report

93. On 23 August 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on its eighth meeting.