



**Report of the Ninth Meeting
of the
International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination (IGAC)**

Hosted by the



UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

Dead Sea, Jordan, 15 December 2006

<http://www.igac.net>

I. BACKGROUND

1. The ninth meeting of the International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination (IGAC) was held at in conjunction with the first session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on 15 December 2006 at the Dead Sea Marriott in Jordan . The meeting was organized by the United Nations *Office on Drugs and Crime* (UNODC). Originally the interagency coordination initiative on anti-corruption was launched by Ms. Louise Fréchette, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, who convened two meetings in New York in late 2001 calling for enhanced collaboration and coordination of anti-corruption efforts within the United Nations. Following this call, IGAC convened its first meeting under the auspices of UNODC in February 2002, and has been meeting regularly ever since. The reports of prior meetings can be found on the IGAC webpage at <http://www.igac.net> .

II. OBJECTIVES

2. The objective of the ninth meeting was to review the decision and outcomes of the first session of the Conference of States Parties to the UNCAC, identify emerging priorities of Governments, Legislatures and Anti-Corruption Bodies, Civil Society and the Private Sector concerning the implementation of the UNCAC, and discuss their implications for and follow-up action by IGAC and its members. The agenda of the meeting is contained in Annex 1.

III. PARTICIPATION

3. Twenty organizations active internationally in anti-corruption policy, enforcement and advocacy participated in the meeting. For the first time the meeting was attended by the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the European Partners against Corruption (EPAC), and the United Nations Special Rapporteur of the Sub-commission on Corruption and its Impact on the Enjoyment of Human Rights of the United Nations Commission for Human Rights. The list of participants is contained in Annex 2.

IV. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF IGAC

4. The meeting was opened by Mr. Stuart C. Gilman of the IGAC Secretariat (UNODC) who put forward the nomination of Mr. Franz Brüner, Director General of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) for election as chair of IGAC. No other nominations had been received by the Secretariat. Mr. Franz Brüner was elected by acclamation. Mr. Gilman handed over the chair to Mr. Brüner.

V. DISCUSSIONS

5. Mr. Gilman delivered a presentation on the various amendments of the IGAC database of anti-corruption projects, stressing the significantly simplified data-entry-requirements. He emphasized that the value and use of the database depended on the willingness of IGAC members to diligently fulfill their obligation in regularly reviewing existing data as well as to add new projects and activities. Ms. Jessica Schulz, U4 Utstein Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, again

raised some of the concerns she had shared in prior meetings of IGAC, including the reluctance of organizations to provide even the most basic inputs into data-collection exercises as well as difficulties arising from frequently changing focal points. Representatives of larger and heavily decentralized organizations, such as UNDP, USAID and the World Bank, expressed their concerns about the efforts needed to enter and update data on hundreds of projects and activities. USAID also raised the difficulties which occur due to its decentralized nature, as country offices cannot be imposed easily additional reporting requirements. In response to this concern it was suggested to limit the data input requirement for large organizations initially to macro data on operational priorities by country and region for 2007, beneficiaries of technical assistance activities, as well as contact details of respective focal points for related projects and activities.

6. Mr. Francis Dubois, UNDP, presented the results of an ad-hoc survey carried out jointly by UNOCHA and UNDP on the preparedness of IGAC members with regard to the prevention of fraud and corruption in the context of emergency disaster relief efforts. Even though only nine organizations had responded to the survey, it became quite evident that most of them did not have an established fraud prevention policy, and where it existed it was not communicated effectively to staff and measures for its implementation remained weak. Based on the initial conclusions drawn from the assessment, UNOCHA and UNDP had furthermore prepared a 9-Step Checklist for Field Managers on Preventing Fraud in Disaster Relief Efforts and Rapid Response Mechanisms. Mr. Dubois briefed participants about the main components and underlying rationale for this checklist and invited participants to provide their feedback on the usefulness of the checklist, if any, directly to him.

7. Mr. Gilman, Mr. Stolpe and Mr. Gallo (UNODC) briefed participants on the main decisions adopted by the Conference of States Parties, including on the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on the review of implementation with the specific task to make recommendations to the COSP at its second session on the appropriate mechanisms and bodies that will review the implementation of the Convention, and on the terms of reference for such mechanisms or bodies. In this context, the COSP also determined the basic parameters of such mechanism or body, including that it should be transparent, efficient, non-intrusive, inclusive, and impartial, that it should not produce any ranking of countries, focus on the identification and sharing of good practices and challenges, and cooperate with existing mechanisms and bodies. Finally, the COSP requested UNODC to support, upon request and subject to the availability of resources, countries in the conduct of self-assessments.

8. The COSP also decided to establish an interim open-ended intergovernmental working group to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the return of the proceeds of corruption, including through developing cumulative knowledge in the area of asset recovery, encouraging cooperation among relevant bilateral and multilateral initiatives, facilitating the exchange of information among states, building confidence and encouraging cooperation between requesting and requested states, facilitating the exchange of ideas among states on the expeditious return of assets, and identifying capacity-building needs of States Parties in the prevention and detection of transfers of proceeds of corruption and income or benefits derived from such proceeds. In the same decision, the COSP also requested UNODC to consider innovative solutions to help states to build their capacities to prepare and respond to requests for mutual legal assistance in the area of asset recovery.

9. Moreover, the COSP decided an interim open-ended intergovernmental working group on technical assistance that should review the needs for technical assistance, provide guidance on priorities, based on programmes approved by the Conference of States Parties, consider information gathered through a self-assessment checklist, consider information on technical assistance activities of the Secretariat and States, including on successful practices, and promote the coordination in order to avoid duplication of technical assistance. Finally, the Conference tasked UNODC to organize a workshop of development and legal practitioners and experts with a view to enhancing the mutual understanding of issues related to best practices and coordination.

10. Following the briefing, participants were invited to share their own views and observations concerning the outcomes of the first session of the COSP, in particular what they considered priority areas in order to further promote the effective implementation of the UNCAC.

11. Participants concurred on the critical importance of an effective review mechanism as the most effective means to ensure the implementation of the Convention. They also stressed that awareness of the existence and content of the Convention among members of the executive, legislature and judiciary in most countries, including those who had ratified the Convention, remained low. However, awareness raising activities should not only focus on Government representatives, but also address members of civil society and the private sector. Some participants also suggested to develop specific training activities targeted in particular at the field staff of international and bilateral providers of technical assistance working in the areas of human rights, good governance, rule of law and justice sector reform. Such training would constitute a first important step in streamlining the requirements of the UNCAC into already existing programmes and projects and, hereby, create catalysts for the effective implementation of the UNCAC. At the same time ongoing anti-corruption projects should be aligned with the specific requirements of the provisions of the UNCAC.

12. Several participants underscored the need to focus capacity building measures on specialized anti-corruption bodies as they represent the institutional motor and driving force behind the implementation of the provisions of the UNCAC at the domestic level. Moreover, participants emphasized the need to develop projects and activities geared towards supporting States Parties in using effectively the legal tools provided in the chapter on asset recovery. Some participants also felt that there was a need for a more systematic collection of information on best practices in the implementation of the various measures and tools provided by the Convention. In this context it was mentioned that UNICRI and UNODC were in the process of developing a Technical Guide for the Implementation of the UNCAC and an electronic repository, which would organize national laws, policy documents, relevant publications, good practice examples and other useful resource materials following the structure and logic of the Convention.

13. Participants concurred on the need to streamline the underlying principles of the UNCAC into the work and management of international organizations, including through the strengthening of the integrity of staff.

14. Following the general discussion, participants were requested to share their proposals for follow-up actions for IGAC, its members and/ or themselves.

15. Mr. Patrick Moulette, OECD, expressed the intention of his organization to support the development of an effective review mechanism for the UNCAC, including through the active

participation in the respective working group which had been established by the COSP. In particular, he would share his organization's experience in preparing and using country reports for the purpose of reviewing the level of compliance of countries with their obligations under the OECD Convention. Moreover, he envisaged to use the OECD Anti-Bribery Working Group a platform for further promoting the rapid and effective implementation of the UNCAC.

16. Mr. Dedo Geinitz, German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), underscored the positive experience of GTZ in supporting the Indonesian anti-corruption authority (KPK) in the conduct of a "gap-analysis" helping to identify in great detail the extent to which the Indonesian legal and institutional framework already complies with the provisions of the UNCAC. Based on this experience he suggested the development of guidelines for the conduct of such compliance review. Moreover, he suggested that IGAC should play a more active role in the preparation and conduct of major anti-corruption events, such as the upcoming Global Forum V.

17. Ms. Anne Lugon-Moulin, Swiss Aid, expressed her organisation's intention to streamline the UNCAC into its broader programme on good governance. She also informed participants that Swiss Aid considered asset recovery as a priority area, and thus supported the recently established International Center for Asset Recovery as well as the Anti-Corruption Mentor Programme operated by UNODC.

18. Mr. Francis Dubois, UNDP, and Mr. Martin Polaine, Commonwealth Secretariat, conveyed their intention to further explore the feasibility, content and implementation modalities of an ethics training programme for international public officials based on the principles enshrined in the UNCAC, the standards of conduct of international civil servants, the UN Integrity Awareness Initiative and other relevant sources.

19. Ms. Gillian Dell, Transparency International, stated her organisation's plans to consolidate the Coalition of Civil Society Friends of the UNCAC, which had been formed on the occasion of the first session of the Conference of States Parties to the UNCAC with the objective of coordinating and focusing civil society's input into the deliberations of Member States. Moreover, Transparency International works towards enhancing civil society's role in the monitoring of the implementation of the UNCAC, including through actively participating in the open-ended working group on the review of implementation of the UNCAC, supporting the review of the checklist and other monitoring instruments, and promoting shadow reporting by civil society.

20. Several participants proposed for IGAC to participate in the various working groups established by the COSP, and expressed their interest in supporting more actively the next session of the Conference of States Parties, in particular the conduct of side-events for special interest groups, as well as to coordinate more closely awareness raising activities for the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2007. Several organisations also confirmed their interest to participate in the development and conduct of a training of staff on the UNCAC, including the ratification process, technical assistance priorities, and technical assistance programming in support of the implementation of the UNCAC. In this context, Mr. Martin Kreutner, Ministry of Interior of Austria and European Partners against Corruption mentioned a potential opportunity to conduct such training as part of the summer school with which INTERPOL plans to launch the International Anti-Corruption Academy in Vienna.

21. Participants also expressed their concern about the limited press coverage the Convention as well as the first session of the Conference of States Parties had received. The Chair suggested that press releases concerning the UNCAC should be forwarded to him, as at the European level, EU OLAF had established a functioning network for the distribution of such releases.

V. PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

22. Participants agreed on the following actions:
- IGAC Secretariat to develop an integrated event planner to be filled in by all IGAC members in accordance with their own planning cycles by 31 March 2007;
 - IGAC members to register through the following link <http://www.igac.net/registration.asp> as users of the IGAC database by latest 31 January 2007;
 - IGAC members to complete the data-input on their ongoing and planned anti-corruption projects and programmes by latest 28 February 2007; those IGAC members who are not able to provide data on individual projects and activities should at least provide information on operational priorities by country and region for 2007, beneficiaries of technical assistance activities, as well as contact details of respective focal points for related projects and activities;
 - IGAC members should provide feedback, if any, to Mr. Francis Dubois, UNDP, (francis.dubois@undp.org) on the 9-Step Checklist for Field Managers on Preventing Fraud in Disaster Relief Efforts and Rapid Response Mechanisms;
 - Once it becomes available, UNODC will send the draft Technical Guide on Implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption to all IGAC members for their comments and revisions, as appropriate;
 - UNDP and Commonwealth Secretariat to draft a proposal for the development of an ethics training programme specifically designed for international public servants, and to circulate the proposal for comments and inputs to all IGAC members;
 - IGAC Secretariat to further consult with IGAC members on joint activities in support of:
 - the various working groups established by the COSP,
 - possible side-events during the second session of the Conference of States Parties to the UNCAC, and
 - awareness raising initiatives for the next International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2007.
 - IGAC members to explore further how to enhance IGAC's potential to serve a partnership-building network.

VI. NEXT MEETING

23. Participants agreed, that the 10th meeting of IGAC should be organized well in advance of the second session of the COSP scheduled to be held in November 2007 in Indonesia. The 11th meeting of the IGAC should then be held again in conjunction with the next session of the COSP. Some of the options discussed included to hold the 10th meeting of IGAC in conjunction with the yet to be determined first meeting of the open-ended working group on technical assistance established by the COSP. Another option mentioned was to hold the meeting in conjunction with

the Global Forum V, in April 2007 in South Africa. Moreover, the Commonwealth Secretariat renewed its offer to host the next meeting of IGAC at its Headquarters in London.

24. As possible themes for the next meeting of IGAC, participants suggested *inter alia* asset recovery, encouragement and protection of whistle-blowers, as well as combating corruption at the local government level.

ANNEX 1 - AGENDA

9th Meeting of the International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination (IGAC)
“Follow-up action to the first session of Conference States Parties to the UN Convention
against Corruption - ”
15-16 December 2006
Marriott, Dead Sea, Jordan

Friday, 15 December 2006

- 9.30 – 10.00** Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Stuart Gilman, Head Anti-Corruption Unit, UNODC
Election of the Chair
Adoption of Agenda
- 10.00 – 10.30** Presentation of the IGAC database by UNODC
- 10.30 – 11.00** Follow-up on 8th Meeting of IGAC by UNDP
- 11.00 – 11.30** Coffee and Tea Break
- 11.30 – 12.00** Discussions, Decisions and Outcomes of the first session of the Conference of States Parties by UNODC –
- 12.00 – 13.00** Emerging priorities of Governments, Legislatures and Anti-Corruption Bodies, Civil Society and the Private Sector concerning the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption
- 13.00 – 14.00** Lunch
- 14.00 – 15.30** Emerging priorities of Governments, Legislatures and Anti-Corruption Bodies, Civil Society and the Private Sector concerning the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (continues)
- 15.30 – 16.00** Coffee and Tea Break
- 16.00 – 17.30** Follow-up action by IGAC members to promote the ratification and support implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption –
- 17.30 – 19.00** Programme of Work for IGAC in 2007

ANNEX 2 –LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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