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**Message from the Working Group on Bribery in
International Business Transactions of the Organization for
Economic Cooperation and Development**

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MESSAGE FROM THE OECD WORKING GROUP ON BRIBERY

10 December 2006

On the occasion of the First Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Parties to the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, as organised through the OECD Working Group on Bribery, and its Chairman are honoured to convey the following message:

1. Recognising the urgent need to strengthen and reinforce the fight against corruption globally, and believing that a successful result will depend on strong collaboration between all countries, international organisations, the private sector and civil society, the OECD Working Group on Bribery congratulates the United Nations on the momentous occasion of its First Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
2. Believing also that to be successful the fight against corruption must be comprehensive and attack the many forms of corruption and their systemic roots, the OECD Working Group on Bribery welcomes the inclusion in the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) of provisions for combating the bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions. These provisions and their future implementation by the State Parties will support and complement the efforts of the OECD Working Group on Bribery since 1999 and the coming into force of the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.
3. Desiring that the prohibition in both conventions of the bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions and the efforts to implement these prohibitions by both bodies will be mutually supportive and not duplicative, the OECD Working Group on Bribery proposes that both bodies coordinate and cooperate in their programmes for reviewing implementation of the two conventions as follows:
 - Reports on the implementation of the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions by its Parties that are also State Parties to the UNCAC should be duly taken into account by the Conference of State Parties in any assessment or review process that it adopts.

- The OECD Working Group on Bribery would make available to the Conference of State Parties expertise it has gained through monitoring the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions whenever this is deemed appropriate by both bodies. Such support could involve advice and assistance in the development of a review mechanism adopted by the Conference of State Parties and the eventual assessment of the implementation by State Parties of the offence of bribing a foreign public official in international business transactions. The Conference of State Parties and the OECD Working Group on Bribery could explore ways to ensure an effective sharing of the expertise in these areas.
 - The OECD Working Group on Bribery could also, with the agreement of the countries concerned, make available to the Conference of State Parties expertise it has gained through reviewing and assessing anti-corruption reforms in the framework of OECD-led regional initiatives.
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